

The capture of Sicily's drug king is the latest success for Mafia hunters in Italy and the US

Is this the end for Mob rule?

By Anne Hanley in Rome
and David Osborne
in New York

FEARED drug king Pasquale Cutrera is contemplating a bleak future. On Sunday, Cutrera was arrested on Spain's Costa del Sol, five days after embassies in Rome admitted he had been released from prison on a technicality and had fled the country.

With true Mafia panache, Cutrera had abandoned the wheelchair to which he had long claimed to be confined, and was strolling along the main drag in Fuengirola, arm-in-arm with his wife, when he was picked up in a joint operation by Italian and Spanish police.

The man found guilty of running one of the world's biggest drug trafficking rings will now be brought back to Italy to serve a 21-year prison sentence, joining the growing number of top crime bosses behind bars on Italian soil.

Back across the water, New York is also rejoicing in a headline that has been a long time coming: "The Mob is Dead". From time to time, in Italy and in the Cosa Nostra's New World outpost, New York City, final triumph by prosecutors and politicians over the wise guys has seemed tantalisingly close. Like now. And yet, still we must add: "Long Live the Mob".

The snaring of two men is cause for some hope. In a jail north of New York City sits John Gotti Jr. The son of the John Gotti Sr, one-time leader of the Gambino clan, he awaits trial later this year on charges of racketeering. In the eyes of some, a conviction of the younger Gotti would represent a final death blow against the New York Mafia.

The arrest of Gotti, believed to have been running the Gambino machine on behalf of his father, himself behind bars on murder and racketeering convictions since 1992, is one of a string of knock-out punches against the Mafia in New York. The conviction of Gotti Sr rest-

Pasquale Cutrera



The mafia drug king was arrested in central Malaga on Sunday. His arrest came only five days after he eluded surveillance and fled from Italy. Police believe Malaga was a stop-over on route to Venezuela, where the Mafia boss still owns an extensive chain of hotels and casinos. Cutrera, 63, was the link-man between the Sicilian Mafia and South America's drug cartels. He and his brothers, Paolo and Gaetano, left their crime-infested home town in southern Sicily in the Seventies, surfacing in Canada, Venezuela and the Caribbean where they set up a network of financial holding companies and restaurant chains. They ran a smuggling ring of vast proportions, shipping drugs to north America and Europe. The Cutreras were extradited from Venezuela in 1992 and three years later went on trial in Palermo.

ed on turnout evidence given by Gotti's former Gambino underboss, Sammy "The Bull" Gravano. And last year, Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, head of the rival Genovese clan, was imprisoned. Moreover, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has claimed success in rooting out Mafia influence from city food markets and the rubbish carting industry. Italy's Mafia-fighters, in contrast, despite their own recent run of successes, are not happy; the government, they claim, offers little in the way of support for their work; perhaps worse still, the people of the crime-plagued south are showing signs of giving up the uneven struggle against the Mob.

The events of Sunday were emblematic of the paradox: in the space of one day, Cutrera was brought to heel, another high-ranking boss Pino Guastella was arrested in Palermo, and the people of Palermo went to the polls to elect a new provincial council.

The man who emerged as clear winner in that ballot, centre-right candidate Francesco Musotto, was recently charged with colluding with the Mafia and though he was acquitted, some still harbour doubts about his connections.

The vote came six years and a day after one of Italy's best-loved figures, Judge Giovanni Falcone, was killed by a Mafia bomb. His death prompted the nearest thing to a popular revolt against organised crime. Tough new laws were introduced to ensure that criminals, once caught, could not continue running their crime empires from their prison cells.

For a short while it looked like Cosa Nostra might be on the run. But the spring of 1997, when police picked up Giovanni Brusca, the man who pushed the button to blow up Falcone, and Pietro Aglieri, believed to have stepped into boss Totò Riina's shoes, the traditional acceptance among Sicilians of the Mafia as a fact of life in Sicily seemed to have returned.

Attilio Bolzoni, a Palermo-based journalist whose book *C'era una volta la lotta alla mafia* (Once Upon A Time There Was A Fight Against the Mafia) was published last week, is harsh on Sicilians: "Falcone might have died 100 years ago, not just six," he said. "This is an entirely different era."

Ronald Goldstock, a former director of the New York State Organized Crime Task Force, believes that the authorities have entered the final round of their fight. "For law enforcement, it is the mopping up period."

The world's top Family bosses

John Gotti Jr



One of the largest of the New York mafia families to occupy the attention of generations of policemen is the Gambino family, with around 200 members living in the suburbs of New York. The younger generations are about as far from the suave, self-confident figures evoked in *The Godfather* as one could get. This fall in standards is illustrated by the pending racketeering case against John Gotti Jr, 33-year-old son of the imprisoned Gambino boss "Dapper Don" John Gotti, who was convicted of murder and racketeering in 1992 on the harrowing evidence of his father, Sammy "The Bull" Gravano. The track-suit-wearing, starked-entrenched Gotti Jr, is charged with shelling down Sicily, a Manhattan strip club popular with some Hollywood types, by demanding a percentage from the parking valets and bartenders.

Vincent "The Chin" Gigante



He is the official leader of the Genovese, the so-called "big League of the underworld", and has been sentenced to 12 years in a prison steeped. Gigante has decided to keep his family away from the mafia because the old values of loyalty are fast disappearing and an increasing number of mafia bosses are being arrested. Members of the Genovese family are said to have bribed a firm to sell stock to a company that owns fitness clubs. After brokers pushed the company's stock price sky high, using high-pressure tactics to sell shares to investors by telephone, the conspirators sold their shares before the price plummeted, netting millions of dollars in profits.

Salvatore Riina



He is considered as the boss of bosses among the biggest mafia families in Italy. The spectacular arrest in January 1993 of Salvatore Riina, who had been on the run for 20 years, added to the feeling that the mafia was dying. But by June 1995 when Riina's brother-in-law Lucidica Bagnara was picked up, popular excitement was more restrained. In spring 1997 when police picked up Giovanni Brusca, the man who pushed the button to blow up Giovanni Falcone, the top anti-mafia prosecutor, and the Mafia-mythic, Pietro Aglieri, believed to have stepped into Riina's shoes, the traditional acceptance of the Mafia as a fact of life in Sicily had returned and the reaction was muted.

Vito Vitale



He was described by an investigator as "the most dangerous mafioso still at large", before he was arrested last month when police ambushed him outside Palermo. The arrest of Vitale, 39, believed to top the new generation of Sicilian Mafia bosses, comes after arrests of a number of other top Mob figures. Vitale emerged as a Mob linchpin after the arrests of the old generation of Mafia chiefs. He has a reputation for bloodthirsty ruthlessness and a steady hand with a gun. Vitale has shot his way to the top, investigators said. Wanted for killings and providing the acid bath in which the body of a supargner's 13-year-old son was dissolved, Vitale is believed to answer directly to gangster Bernardo Provenzano, who has not been sighted for 30 years.

New York's mayor leads fight

By David Osborne and
Anne Hanley

AT THE opening of *Godzilla*, the special-effects monster movie, New York's mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, seized on an opportunity to tout his Mafia-fighting credentials. The lizard, he pointed out, made the Fulton fish market its first stop in Manhattan. "Five years ago that would not have been possible," he quipped. "He would have been stopped by the Mafia."

Mr Giuliani cannot alone take the credit for the humbling of the Cosa Nostra in New York, but he can take a share. His record stretches back to 1983, when, as district attorney for the city, he destroyed with a series of convictions the famed "Pizza Connection", centred on the grip that the Mafia had on heroin imports into the United States.

Prosecutors today are upholding that early Giuliani legacy. The case against John Gotti Jr may critically weaken the Mafia from top to bottom. One item in evidence: a list found in a Gotti home of all the "made men" of all five Mafia families. Investigators have called it their Holy Grail.

These days, Mr Giuliani's main weapon is regulation. By turning over control of the fish market to the city, he has watched as prices of fish have dropped by 5 per cent in three years. The destruction of the Mafia cartel that used to control all rubbish collection from commercial buildings in Manhattan has had a similarly spectacular effect. An estimated \$400m (£250m) has been cut from the waste-collection bills of office towers, restaurants, hospitals and hotels.

Despite their recent run of startling successes, Italy's Mafia-fighters are not happy: "Anyone who mentions the Mafia these days is considered a nuisance," said Palermo's chief prosecutor, Gian Carlo Caselli last week.

With Pierluigi Vigna, head of the national anti-Mafia prosecutor's office, Mr Caselli is the most exposed of Italy's crime-busters. His frustration at what he perceives as lukewarm support from Rome is tangible: "We're accused of acting only to protect our own power bases," he said. "There's a real campaign against us."

Perhaps equally discouraging is the fact that the people of Italy's crime-plagued south are showing signs of giving up the uneven struggle against the Mob.

Police intervene in battle of 'offensive' china pigs

By Clare Garner

POLICE are understood to have confiscated a collection of porcelain pigs from the front window of a woman's house in the same road as Leicester's main mosque following a complaint from local Muslims that the display was offensive.

Nancy Bennett, a 49-year-old foster mother from the Highfields area of Leicester, said the complaint about the pigs was made after she went to the police to report harassment. She has alleged that she has been targeted by local youths since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, when she decorated her house with red, white and blue bunting. It is understood that the pigs were displayed alongside a quote from the Koran which said: "Let there be no coercion in religion."

A spokesman for Leicester-shire Police said it was investigating the matter and that a file would be submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service, which would take the final decision on whether to press charges under the Public Order Act.



Nancy Bennett with the china pigs Photograph: Ian Bullock

Leicester Federation of Muslim Organisations spokesman Yaqub Khan said that more than 1,000 worshippers attending weekly Friday prayers at the nearby mosque passed the collection of pigs. He said that Mrs Bennett was aware of the potential for offence to be caused - that the pig is mentioned as being "unclean" in the Koran, and is regarded

as an offensive animal by Muslims, who are forbidden from eating it.

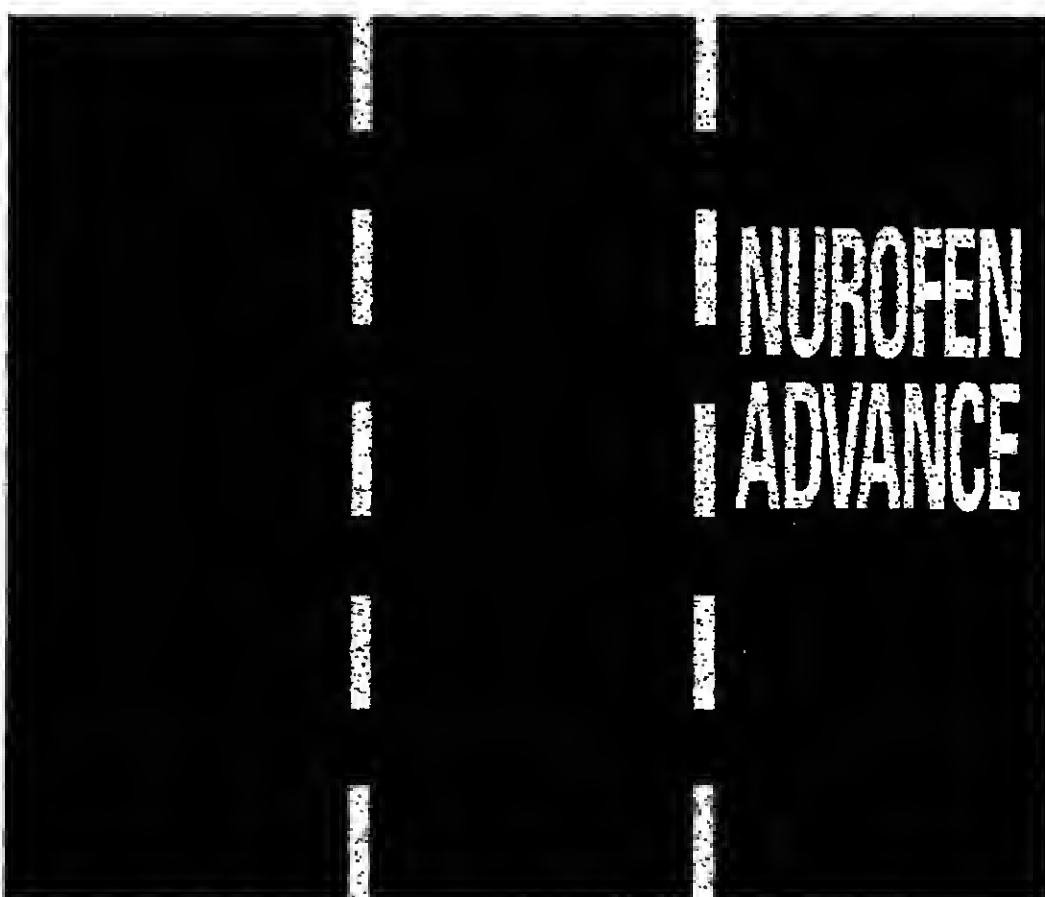
Mrs Bennett said: "I arrived home to find police about to break into my house. They had got a warrant. They said they had had complaints about the pigs from neighbours. They considered it was a public order matter and took about 17 of them. I have been told not to replace them. I am sure I am not the only person in Britain who collects ceramic pigs."

Mr Khan agreed that there were indeed other people who kept china pigs in their houses, to which Muslims have ever objected.

"But if you display, for example, a poster in your front window and that poster is provocative to your neighbours then the poster is not private property just because it is in your house," he added.

"There are rules which, as good citizens, we have to observe. We are a multi-faith society and we, as Muslims, respect other faiths practised in this country, so I think, in return, they should respect ours. Something like this is taken very seriously by Muslims and it is a very sensitive area."

The quote from the Koran was also seen as provocative, Mr Khan said. "The Koran is a sacred book. If that is placed in a window where pigs have been placed then that is even more offensive. It may be a trivial matter for some sections of the community but it has to be dealt with."



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Dons win battle to halt scrutiny by inspectors

By Judith Judd
Education Editor

PLANS FOR tough external inspections of universities to hold dons to account for their teaching have been abandoned after a revolt by vice-chancellors, a confidential report says.

All new students will pay £1,000 a year tuition fees from this autumn and ministers have said that undergraduates must be assured of the quality of courses. They believe that students will be much more demanding on standards if they are paying for their teaching.

Universities appoint their own external examiners who check the standard of students' work, advise on teaching methods and course content and report back to the university. But critics say the arrangements are too cosy and last summer's report by Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education, which recommended the introduction of tuition fees, said the system should be strengthened to make colleges more accountable.

The Quality Assurance Agency, which monitors university standards, put forward proposals earlier this year for a team of registered external examiners to check course standards and report to the agency as well as continuing in their present role. That would have introduced into universities

some elements of the inspection system used in schools by the Office for Standards in Education. But a confidential report seen by *The Independent* shows that the agency has backed off after an outcry from vice-chancellors at leading universities who said the new system would put academic freedom and university autonomy under threat.

The confidential report dated 6 May, from John Randall, the agency's chief executive, shows that the proposals have been revised to offer a much lighter touch. "The main burden of external subject review is lifted," it says. "Self-assessment is at the heart of the model."

Sir Stewart Sutherland, principal of Edinburgh University, welcomed the decision to revise the proposals and said universities should have a different inspection system from schools, which had a national curriculum. "Universities must retain the responsibility for setting their own degree standards," he said.

Mr Randall, however, yesterday said that the paper did not dilute the original proposal. "The plans are still being developed to meet the demand for greater accountability and more public information," he said.

The report says teaching standards should be assessed by the universities with the agency "sampling" to check that the assessments are correct. There should be an approved register

of external examiners, but these would still be appointed by universities and would not report directly to the agency. The report says the system would provide information about universities for students and the public, but some of it would come from assessments published by the universities.

There had also been objections to the suggestion in the Dearing report that some academics might spend as much as 60 days a year inspecting, and questioned whether enough candidates would come forward. "People of the highest standard want to teach rather than inspecting other people's teaching," Sir Stewart said.

Paul Cottrell, assistant general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, welcomed the changes, but said he supported the recommendation in the Dearing report that the external examiner's role should be strengthened and was concerned that it should not be abandoned. "We should like to have a formal system of external examiners, properly trained, recognised and properly remunerated."

He said the report suggested that the new arrangements would mean a lighter touch than at present because self-assessment would play a more important part.

A spokesman for the committee of vice-chancellors and principals said the revision was a basis for negotiation.



A woman sitting outside a bar in San Diego, California, where smoking has been banned in virtually all public places

Photograph AP

Smokers in front line of a new world war

A SHIFT in the tide of opinion against tobacco has led to strict anti-smoking laws across the world.

Fears about the dangers of cigarettes, ignited by the World Health Organisation and other groups with events such as this week's World No-Tobacco Day, have led to many governments introducing tough legislation.

In the United States, where smokers have long been treat-

ed as social outcasts, many states have laws which ban smoking in banks, shops and other public buildings. In California, a hard-line smoking ban on virtually all public places was extended from the beginning of this year to include bars and the bar areas of restaurants.

Singapore has led the way among Asian nations with its anti-smoking laws. Shopping malls, pedestrian underpasses and various outdoor public places were recently added to a long list of areas where the habit is strictly forbidden.

But though the authorities in Singapore and California justify their draconian stance by pointing to reduced levels of smoking, many people believe

that similar laws would not work in Britain.

Amanda Sandford, of the anti-smoking group Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), said yesterday: "It wouldn't be appropriate to go along Californian lines in this country because there would be an outcry and people would ignore it. You have to win people over by a gradual approach."

"The attitude in this country has changed. People are more prepared to say 'yes I do mind if you smoke'. It is only really in leisure places like pubs and clubs where smokers don't feel that they have to ask to light up."

In France, smoking is forbidden in all public areas, but this has proved difficult to en-

force, especially in bars and restaurants where the 1992 law is often disregarded.

Ms Sandford said: "France is a good example of where they made the mistake of introducing a law before they had public support behind them. Having said that, people there do seem to accept the laws more now, and even though there has been resistance in bars and restaurants the law is successfully enforced on places like the Metro in Paris."

No country has a bigger smoking problem than China, where it has been estimated that two-thirds of adult males are smokers. Ms Sandford said: "Millions of people smoke there and the numbers are rising. The

government there is beginning to realise that they will have to control it."

In Italy, smoking is banned in most public places including hospitals, schools libraries, museums, concert halls, cinemas and theatres. In Sweden, smoking is banned, or restricted to certain areas, in shops, banks, schools and restaurants.

The World Health Organisation expressed disappointment yesterday at the British government's decision.

Barbara Zolty, of the World Health Organisation, said: "We strongly support measures to control smoking in public places. There are many reasons for this. Passive smoking has been shown to be harmful to people's health. In addition, it sets an example to young people by showing that governments are taking the problem seriously."

Train fails to take the strain

By Simon Calder
Travel Editor

AT DAWN yesterday, Britain's newest and most expensive railway began running - and promptly broke down. Passengers hoping to use the new Heathrow Express line, linking Britain's busiest airport with central London, were advised to use the Underground instead.

The Heathrow Express does not officially open for another four weeks, but for the past few months a rail/bus service known as FastTrain has been operating to the airport.

Finishing touches were made over the weekend to the new stations - one at Heathrow Central, the other at Terminal Four - so that a "soft" opening of the new service could take place yesterday. But although the first train departed from Paddington on schedule shortly after 5am yesterday, an hour later the service was suspended. Passengers in a hurry were urged to use the Piccadilly Line - thus saving themselves £1.70 on the one-way rail fare of £5.

Those who chose to wait found that, in the grand tradition of British Rail, information was frustratingly difficult to obtain. At Heathrow Central, the

only announcement was made at around 6.30am, warning of a half-hour delay.

The service finally resumed at 7.15am with a heavily laden train, which then proceeded in an alarming staccato fashion. It made four emergency stops on the way to Paddington, attributed by the driver to a faulty sensor on the brakes. Clouds of smoke drifted past the windows of the new Spanish-built train.

The train finally limped in after taking 25 minutes for a journey scheduled to take a quarter of an hour.

The new rail link is already the most expensive per mile in Britain. After it is officially opened next month by the Prime Minister, the present fare will double to £10 single. First-class passengers will pay £20, representing a per-mile rate of £1.40 - more than travelling on Concorde.

A rail company which ran a special £1-a-ticket service to the seaside said yesterday that it might do it again - despite the chaos which resulted as thousands queued to catch trains home.

Police were called to Brighton station on Sunday night when frustrated holiday-

makers had to form a queue which stretched 200 yards down the road.

Yesterday, Thameslink Rail said most of the 20,000 passengers who bought the £1 day return tickets had been happy with the bargain. The

money went to charity.

"We may well do something like it in the future, but if we do we will make changes to eliminate the problems we had for a couple of hours this time," said marketing manager Martin Walter.

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Why this top police officer says red light areas are a good thing

A chief constable has called for licensed brothels, reports Jason Bennetto

ONE of Britain's most senior police officers yesterday gave his backing for the establishment of legalised "red light" zones to control and license street prostitutes.

Richard Wells, the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, also gave his conditional support for the use of licensed brothels as a method of protecting the public and sex workers.

Mr Wells, in an interview with *The Independent*, is the latest in a number of police chiefs who have proposed a liberalisation of the country's vice laws; but he is the most senior to suggest safe havens for prostitutes working on the streets.

He also blamed the high level of violence in society partly on the bad example set by modern-day role models, citing the television series *Men Behaving Badly*.

Mr Wells, who retires in August, had a parting shot, too, for his officers who claimed damages for the trauma they suf-

fered in dealing with the Hillsborough disaster.

Fourteen police officers won £1.2m in 1996 for psychological distress caused by hauling trapped fans out of the Sheffield stadium pens in April 1989. Others are trying to sue for the distress caused by witnessing the incident in which 96 Liverpool football fans died.

"I believe that police officers join the Service and recognise that they are going to face death and trauma, sometimes on a large scale. I think that we all extrapolate from that there are going to be extremely nasty days," he said.

"The Chief Constable should ensure there's good health care in the force, peer group counselling, and a shoulder to cry on. They [the officers] should recuperate and then get back to their job."

On prostitution, he suggested providing street hookers with designated tolerance zones where they would be allowed to act without fear of



Richard Wells, who has attacked police homophobia, and called for legalised prostitution

Photograph: Asadour Guzelian

prosecution. He said: "I think if it was possible to corral it [street prostitution] and license it, then I think it is an answer, but I don't pretend it's a perfect answer or that it's an acceptable answer, but it's something to lessen the mischief. It makes sense."

His comments follow a failed plan to set up a red-light tolerance zone in a commercial district of Sheffield, after complaints from local businesses.

Vice Squad officers have long argued that current laws on prostitutes are unworkable, and in most cities the police are turning a blind eye to sauna and massage joints that act as un-

official brothels. Street prostitution has proved a more difficult issue because it is more visible and generates more complaints.

Mr Wells, who retired in August, said: "There's no easy answer to prostitution. Sex is a commodity which markets itself very easily."

"There is evidence that people are enticed onto the streets to be prostitutes, whether male or female. There's substantial money in it. Where there's money there's likely to be corruption and violence."

"That's all an area of the seediness and danger which commands to me some element

of legalisation of brothels. On a balance of the public interest, the balance is shifting towards a form of sanitisation."

He added: "The idea of corralling that sort of behaviour into agreed parts of town has something to commend it. The big question is, whose part of town?"

Some police forces are already effectively decriminalising street prostitution. For example, women working in the red light district of Glasgow have been advised by the police to pick up their punters in front of surveillance cameras to deter any would-be attackers. The police have promised out

to prosecute the women being filmed.

Keith Hellawell, the Drug Czar, who chief constable of West Yorkshire, first called for the legalisation of brothels.

On the issue of violence in society Mr Wells said: "People in the popular gaze can react with violence and not suffer any penalties - this sends the wrong signal to the public."

He said examples such as famous people "misbehaving on airlines" - the Oasis rock stars Noel and Liam Gallagher were threatened with a ban in February after reports of drunken food fights during a flight to Australia - and television pro-

grammes celebrating yob lifestyles such as *Men Behaving Badly*, all gave the "wrong message".

He argued: "There's been a lack of leadership in very clearly pronounced standards in society."

Since taking charge of the South Yorkshire force eight years ago, Mr Wells has become one of the country's most forward thinking chief constables. He remained worried about "pockets" of prejudice against police officers who were black, gay, women, or handicapped.

"I don't think we have even begun to tackle the homophobia issue yet," he said.

Baby deaths inquiry result

THE General Medical Council is this week expected to pass judgment on three doctors at the centre of the biggest ever medical disciplinary inquiry.

The doctors' professional body will decide if heart surgeons James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana, and Dr John Roylance, former chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust, are guilty of serious professional misconduct.

The GMC's disciplinary committee will decide whether the doctors should be struck off after hearing evidence about 53 operations on babies and toddlers between 1988 and 1995. Twenty-nine died and four suffered serious brain damage.

Mr Wisheart, 59, of Bristol, now retired, and Mr Dhasmana, 58, are accused of carrying out heart operations on children beyond their clinical competence at Bristol Royal Infirmary despite warnings that at least twice as many babies died in their care as in other hospitals.

They are also charged with failing to tell parents the true risks of putting a child in their hands for surgery.

Dr Roylance, 67, of Bristol, is charged with failing to stop the surgeons operating, even when colleagues made clear their concerns about the number of children who had died.

All three deny the charges. The GMC panel, which retired to consider its verdict last Friday, must confine itself to ethical issues such as what the parents were told about the risks of surgery and at what point the surgeons should have realised the mortality rate was above the national average.

If found guilty, the doctors could be admonished, conditions could be put on their registration or they could be struck off the medical register.

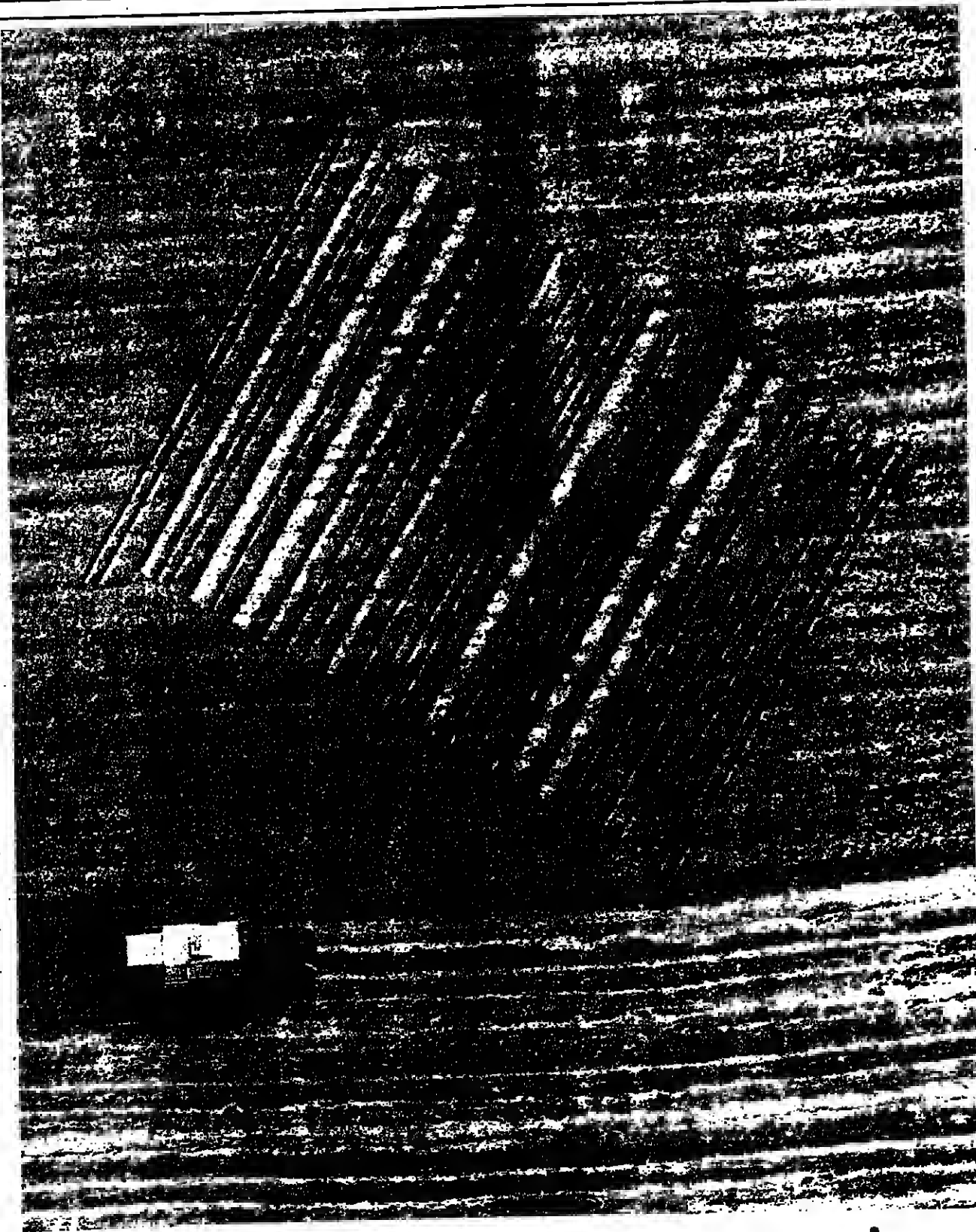
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A family of businesses



Gap takes to the Net in move to outsmart high-street rivalry



Children posing in clothes from The Gap - the casual clothing chain that has announced plans to lay out its stall on the Internet

By Vanessa Thorpe

IN A significant boost to the credibility of the fledgling Internet retail industry, The Gap, the international clothing chain, has revealed plans to go on-line.

By this time next year, computer-literate customers should be able to acquire their casual cotton slacks and T-shirts without ever leaving home.

The move, which emerged yesterday, would be a bold one. Of those Internet retail businesses that have started up in the last five years, few are faring well. Only very selective areas of the market, such as computer software, financial services, compact discs and

books, have made much headway. Others, such as IBM's virtual shopping mall World Avenue, have failed dismally.

While many of Britain's 1.25 million Internet-browsing consumers are happy to visit websites, so far they have proved reluctant to pay up for goods.

Jonathan Tikochinsky, electronic selling analyst at research company Datamonitor, says the wisdom of The Gap's decision rests on two crucial decisions.

"The first big question is, will consumers be paying on line? If not, it is simply a catalogue venture, but with the benefit of being cheaper because the company can avoid the expense of catalogue publishing and delivery," he said.

The second important factor, he says, is how the company rationalises its global pricing. For many Internet shoppers, the appeal is the big savings to be made by buying books or music from the United States. With clothing also 30-50 per cent cheaper in the US, any international service threatens to undercut profits in The Gap's British shops.

"The authorities are trying to regulate these kind of tax and export issues and they are mainly doing that by controlling the distribution channels," said Mr Tikochinsky. "So while it may be cheaper to buy American clothes on the Net, later - at the point of delivery - it could cost more."

VIRTUAL RETAILERS

BOOKS: Best established is Amazon.com - offers more than 1 million titles. Last year had sales of £148m. Recently bought UK internet book retailer Bookpages.

MUSIC: CD Now of the US had sales of \$10m last year. However, illegal disc and tape business on the internet is worth £3.7bn, equivalent to 12 per cent of the legitimate market.

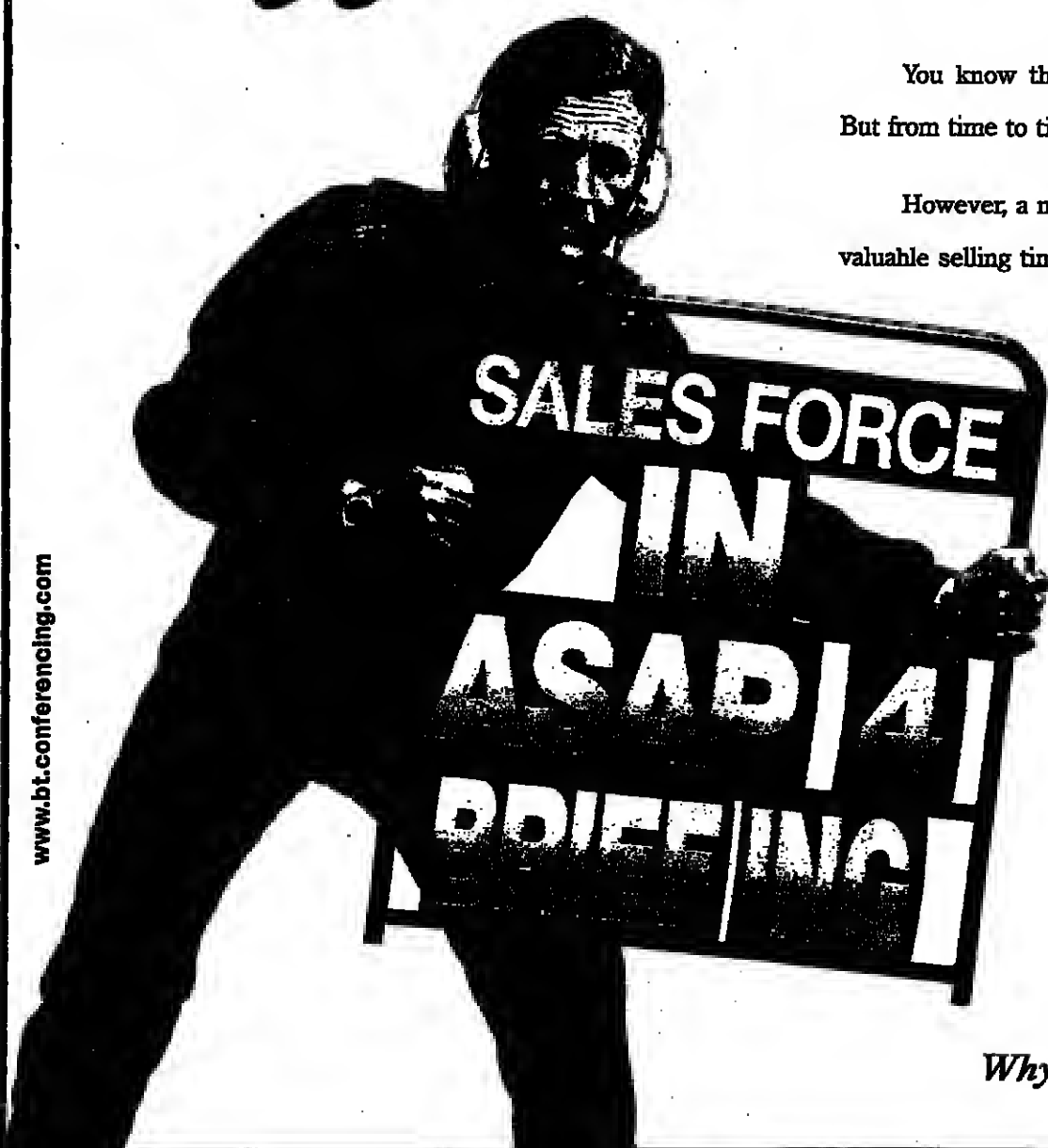
DELIVERY AND COURIER BUSINESSES: PC Flowers, Interflora, Federal Express and United Parcel Services operate on-line.

BANKS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES: Assets in on-line customers' bank accounts are predicted to rise to \$47bn before 2000. Investment accounts (in mutual funds and shares) are expected to rise from \$11bn to \$52bn.

MALLS: The longest-surviving British virtual shopping mall is Barclay Square. Last year London retailers set up a site giving access to Regent, Bond and Jermyn Street shops.

SUPERMARKETS: Big brand names such as Tesco and Sainsbury's are testing on-line home-delivery services and expect to be able to attract custom without belonging to a "mail" grouping. Tesco's delivery service costs £5 in its West London trial.

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IN BRIEF

Saudi nurses urged to sue

THE SAUDI lawyer representing the two freed British nurses said yesterday that he was planning to bring a £1m lawsuit against Frank Gilford, brother of the Australian woman they were alleged to have killed.

Salah al-Hejailan said the "meat torture" that Mr Gilford had inflicted on Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan in demanding blood money after the death of his sister Yvonne amounted to "blackmail". He said he had written to McLauchlan and Parry asking them to back his claim, which is scheduled to be heard in an Australian court on 17 June.

Lack of childcare support

A SURVEY commissioned by the charity Daycare Trust and information service Familylife Solutions has revealed that most top companies recognise the need to help staff with children, but few provide practical help. The report showed most workers get little support from employers, in the form of childcare vouchers, cash allowances or holiday play schemes. Drawn from the UK's top 500 firms, the results revealed that while there was huge support for the idea of company-backed schemes, only one in 20 firms offered a workplace nursery.

Big rise in Irish abortions

THE number of Irish women travelling to Britain for abortions has reached record levels, according to new figures. The total last year was 5,325, a nine per cent rise on 1996. The figures, from the National Statistics Office, are based only on women who gave Irish addresses to the clinics involved - many others are believed to have hidden their true identities. Abortion in Ireland is banned by the Republic's constitution.

Fault sinks cruise hopes

THE hopes of almost 1,000 holidaymakers were sunk last night after their two-week Mediterranean cruise was cancelled five hours after they boarded the ship. The SS Edinburgh Castle was due to set sail from Liverpool when the tour was cancelled because of an electrical short circuit on the ship's main switchboard.

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Botswana drops case against British journalist

Caitlin DAVIES, the elder daughter of the celebrated journalist Hunter Davies, was expecting a long trial with a possible two-year prison sentence at the end of it. Instead, the case against her was dramatically dropped on the first day of the proceedings.

The Attorney General of Botswana unexpectedly intervened and yesterday decreed that the case be thrown out because of lack of sufficient evidence. Ms Davies, 34, had been charged with publishing "a false report ... which was likely to cause fear and alarm to the public" during her editorship of the *Okavango Observer*, a local newspaper in Botswana, where she has lived for the past eight years.

The dismissal of the case came as a great relief to her family. Yesterday was her mother Margaret's 60th birthday. "There couldn't be a better birthday present," said Mr Davies, who last week wrote about the impending case in *The Independent*.

He added that in some ways his daughter was disappointed that the case had been dropped. "There was part of her that wanted to go through with it and hear the whole case in open court. She didn't want to go to prison, but she would have liked to hear what the evidence was. Now she'll never know."

The offending article featured in her first issue as editor of the *Okavango Observer*, which subsequently closed due to financial difficulties. On 29 September 1995, she ran a front-page story about a gang of youths terrorising Maun, the home village of her husband, Ronald Ridge. She had asked a reporter to get the reaction of the police to the story, but the

The trial of Caitlin Davies is cancelled, but she wanted her day in court, writes Clare Garner

local station commander could neither confirm nor deny the incidents, as nothing had been reported to the police.

On 19 January 1996, a CID officer arrested Ms Davies, saying that the article had breached Section 59 of the Penal Code, which apparently had never been invoked before. The case went quiet for about a year and everyone presumed it had been dropped. Then, in December 1997, Ms Davies was summoned to court and the trial was set for 25 May 1998.

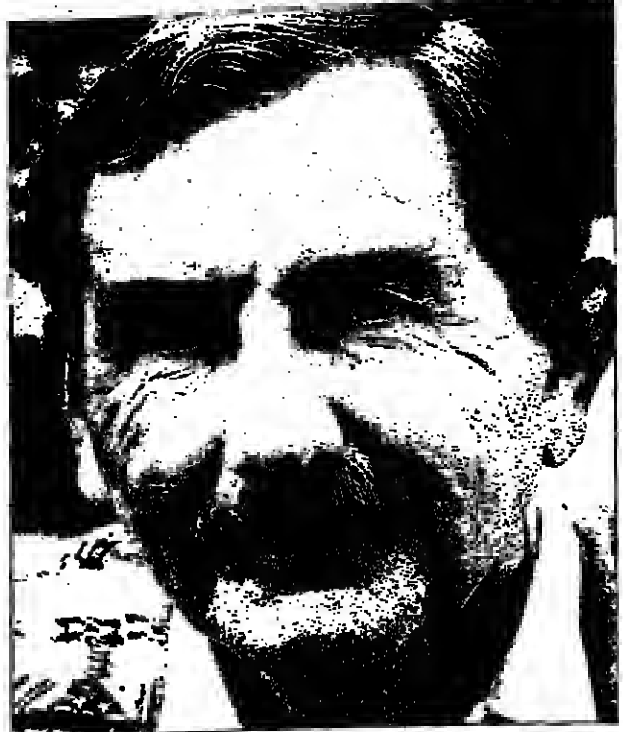
No one understands why the case was resurrected, although newspapers in Botswana and South Africa which took up her cause suggested in leaders that the real problem was that Ms Davies had gone on to produce a series of articles drawing attention to the government's unpopular removal of indigenous hushmeo from the Kalahari. Mr Ridge maintains that the government could not cope with someone as young as his wife "embarrassing them in front of the world".

Ms Davies faxed the statement from the Attorney General to her parents as soon as she heard the news yesterday afternoon. It read: "By virtue of the powers vested in me by section 51(3)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana and sections 10 and 11 of the

Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, I, Phandu Tumbola Chaha Skelemank, Attorney General of Botswana, having read the statements in the criminal docket CR NO 91/12/95 from Maun and being satisfied that there is not sufficient evidence to prosecute, do hereby stop and discontinue all criminal proceedings against Caitlin Davies ... The statement is dated 8 May 1998.

While Mrs Davies was fairly confident that her daughter would get off, Mr Davies was less sure. "I thought there could be something we don't understand," he said. "Although the law is based on British law, some parts are slightly different."

On a visit to Botswana earlier this month Mr Davies had met his daughter's lawyer, who had tried to reassure him. "He said: 'I'm sure you've brought her up to tell the truth so there's nothing to worry about,'" Mr Davies said yesterday. "I thought he was just being hopeful."



Caitlin Davies, 34, who faced a possible two years in jail over an article she published in a Botswana newspaper; (right) her father, journalist Hunter Davies

Disabled shut out by wall of prejudice

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

DISABLED people remain amongst the most excluded in society, with nearly one-third of people believing that those with disabilities are "less intelligent" than their able-bodied peers, according to a new survey.

The Leonard Cheshire, the leading disability care charity, says the findings of the NOP survey confirm that the public's attitude to disabled people remains a major problem and that the majority of people in Britain regard disabled people as socially excluded.

More than four in ten people believe it is virtually impossible to get a job if you are disabled and 53 per cent of the public has no regular contact with disabled people, rising to 60 per cent amongst under-35s.

The NOP survey of 1,000 adults was accompanied by two focus group discussions amongst disabled people. Members of the group said they had felt patronised, excluded, assumed to be stupid and treated as an inconvenience. "I want to be treated as a proper human being," said one participant. "Disabled people have a normal life as well - it's just that people treat the disabled differently." Another said: "I wanted to shout out, 'I am alive. Don't ignore me.'"

There is acknowledgment by the public that disabled people are cut-off from the community. More than half of the people in the NOP survey said that disabled people tend to be excluded and not allowed to be useful members of society.

Many disabled people felt the prejudice they encountered was based on fear and wider ignorance. "They really do think it's catching ... they think you've got some kind of disease," said one person. More than 50 per cent of the survey participants said they had no contact with the disabled, although one in two of the population has a disability.

More than one in five people also said that they became self-conscious and awkward in the presence of a disabled person, with more men than women admitting this. "I think a lot of people find disabled people offensive," said one disabled person. "They think they should be locked away."

Disabled people spoke of society's low expectations of them, of being assumed to be stupid because of their disability. "When I was in a wheelchair people would talk to the person pushing me and ignore me, like what's wrong with her," said one. "That really used to get too my tits. I used to think I can't walk but I can talk." In the survey 32 per cent said that a person in a wheelchair could not be intelligent.

Such discrimination and prejudice mean that it is very difficult for a disabled person to find a job and three-quarters of those questioned said if they became disabled their standard of living would fall. 41 per cent believed it was virtually impossible to get a job if you were disabled.

"I was shocked by the findings," said John Knight, author of the report and himself disabled. "We've all been lulled into a false sense of security because of all the noises about civil rights. Then you find a very broad section of society really has no interest or has very negative views. How is legislation going to work then?" He said the Government should try to combat such prejudice by making sure that issues were dealt with as early as primary school, and that disability, as well as poverty, should be seen as a cause of social exclusion. "Disabled people suffer poverty because of the attitudes which exclude them from society," he added.

● Access Denied: Disabled people's experience of social exclusion is available from Leonard Cheshire, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 2QN.

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WORLD COVER

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Headteachers' conference: Collective Christian worship attacked as out of date and impractical

End could be nigh for daily school prayers

By Judith Judd
Education Editor

HEADTEACHERS will this week defy both the Government and Christian campaigners when they call for an end to the daily act of collective worship in schools.

The law requires schools to hold an act of worship of a broadly Christian nature each day. But members of the National Association of Head Teachers, whose conference begins today in Eastbourne, East Sussex, say it is impractical in an age when most teachers are not Christians and do not want to lead daily worship.

They also say that they have evidence that more and more pupils of other faiths are being withdrawn from assemblies because their parents do not want them to take part in Christian worship. A group of church representatives who reported earlier this year on the future of collective worship failed to agree and called on the Government to carry out a review.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said: "We are in the nonsensical situation where the Office for Standards in Education is reporting that a very large number of secondary schools are not observing the law on the act of worship. For secondary schools, the law is an ass and if the law is an ass it should be changed."

There were real practical difficulties in assembling the whole school each day, he said, because many schools simply did not have the facilities to do it. "For both secondary and primary schools there is a difficul-

ty in getting enough teachers to come forward to lead daily worship. It is out of date to insist on a daily act of Christian worship."

The emphasis should be on morality rather than religion, he suggested.

A motion to be debated at the conference on Thursday asks the Government to change the law to end the requirement for daily worship to allow schools to tackle the teaching of moral values and citizenship elsewhere in the curriculum.

Charlie Colchester, executive director of Christian Action Research and Education, said: "These people are flogging a dead horse. The desire to disenfranchise the Christian content of British education is against the wishes of most parents and the interests of children. Polls show that parents are overwhelmingly in favour of collective worship. We have a Christian education system in this country... There is protection in law for people of other faiths, many of whom want us to recognise that this is a Christian country."

Colin Hart, director of the Christian Institute, said that between 80 and 90 per cent of primary schools which dominated the association's membership complied with the law. "I can only assume that this is an attempt to secularise schools."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has said that he had no intention of changing the law on collective worship in schools. The School Standards and Framework Bill before Parliament ensures that the existing arrangements will continue in the new types of school which the Bill creates.



Pupils praying during morning assembly at the Royal School in Windsor, Berkshire.

Photograph: John Lawrence

Tories draw PM into fray over Sandline

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

THE TORIES are seeking to ensnare Tony Blair into the web surrounding embargo-busting arms shipments by challenging the Prime Minister to disclose whether he was alerted by MI6 to the clandestine operation by Sandline.

The Prime Minister is to be questioned next week over the regular reports he receives from the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) in the weekly "red book" provided by the Joint Intelligence Committee covering MI6 and MI5.

Tory MPs believe that the Prime Minister should have been informed in the intelligence reports to No 10 about the clandestine supply of arms involving Sandline, the private security company hired to help overthrow the military coup in Sierra Leone.

Mr Blair has made it clear that the Foreign Secretary was in charge of the Foreign Office's handling of the affair but the Tories believe the trail leads to the Prime Minister.

Robin Cook last week confirmed that officials had received

intelligence reports on Sandline's activities from MI6, contrary to earlier assurances, but he maintained the line that ministers had not been informed.

The Tories insist that the Prime Minister should have been informed. John Butterfield, Tory MP for Bournemouth West, has tabled a question to the Prime Minister for answer next Monday on how many intelligence reports on the activities of Sandline were submitted to him.

"The Prime Minister gets regular reports from the MI6 and he should have known about Sandline. Does this mean he did not tell his own Foreign Secretary, because Mr Cook is saying he did not know about Sandline? Or are we saying that MI6 never informed the Prime Minister?"

The Foreign Secretary made it clear last week that Sir Thomas Legg's inquiry into the Foreign Office's handling of the Sandline affair will have access to the intelligence reports, written between 8 October 1997, when the UN passed its resolution banning arms to Sierra Leone, and 10 March this year, when the Customs and Excise investigation into Sandline began.

A quarter of viewers ignorant of digital TV

MORE than a quarter of adults have not heard of digital television, which is being launched in less than six months' time, according to a survey released yesterday.

Some 28 per cent of the population are ignorant of the development, which has been billed as the most exciting change in television since colour was introduced 30 years ago. More than 20 per cent believe digital television, which will mean many more channels, will start in 2001 or after, rather than this autumn. And nearly 60 per cent know nothing about set-top boxes—the

equipment needed in homes to receive the new channels.

The survey of 1,000 adults, conducted for Radio Rentals, shows a public largely unprepared for the system, which uses digital rather than analogue signals. Eighty per cent did not realise that analogue television will eventually be switched off.

The survey results could concern British companies which will be spending around £320m on launching digital television.

Mike Ryan, of Radio Rentals, said: "There is a lot of consumer confusion about what digital will or will not deliver."

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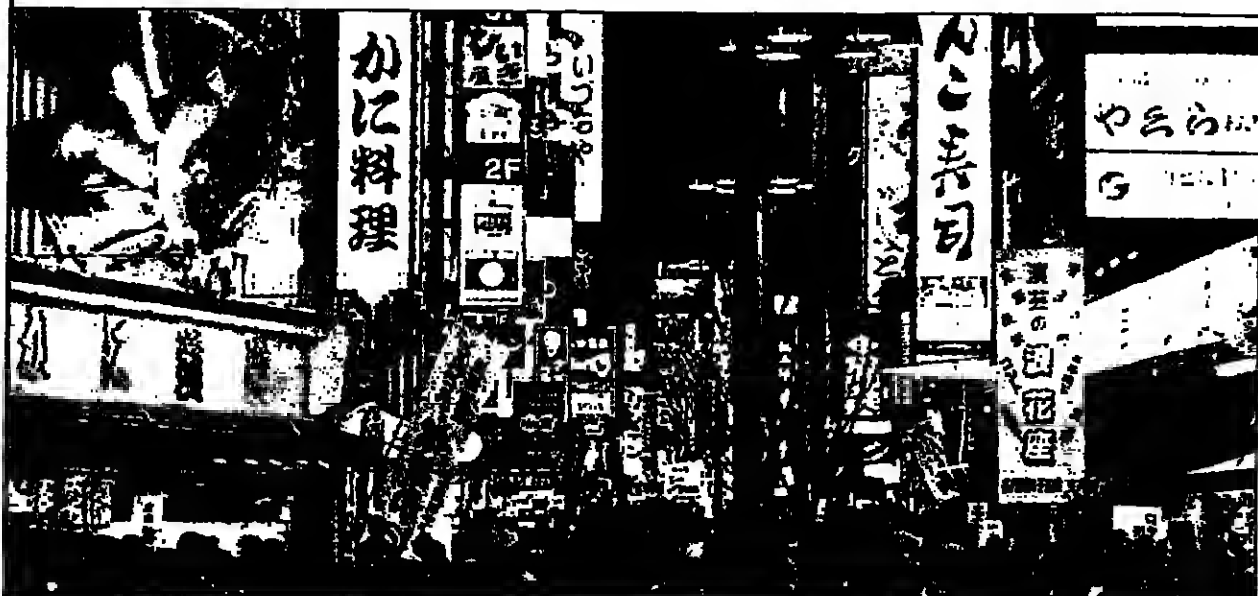
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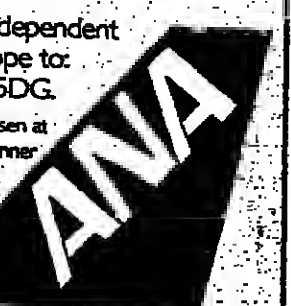
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Legs and lungs take you to the top – but it's not climbing

TEN weeks before I stood among the perplexed cocktail party of climbers thwarted on the south summit of Everest, with no rope to reach the main top, I was involved in a serious battle for survival in the mountains of eastern Turkey.

My friend and climbing partner, Steve Lemartowicz, and I sat with our backs braced against one wall of our small tent as a blizzard unfolded in snow. We could not resist the onslaught and the tent was being moved by the force of the wind.

However dire our predicament, nobody was going to come to our aid. The Bolkar Toros in winter is an empty place. In two weeks exploring its peaks on skis we saw not a soul above the snowline and nobody knew our proposed routes.

So we were faced that morning with doing something that is the essence of adventure mountaineering – making a decision on which one's life could depend. Should we try to sit out the blizzard in the tent? Should we try to dig a snow hole? Or should we try and retreat to lower ground?

We chose retreat. I was knocked off my skis by the wind at first. But gradually, moving in the hills and bracing ourselves against each snowy blast, we inched our way downhill and after some hours found a more sheltered spot to re-erect our distorted tent.

What has this personal drama in Turkey to do with Everest? It illustrates something that is gone from most expeditioning on the Big Hill – any sense of freedom or adventure, that you have got to the top of the world by your climbing skills and nous. Ed Hillary said as much on the 40th anniversary of his first ascent with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay. "The sense of freedom and challenge has long disappeared," he wrote in a postscript to a special edition of John Hunt's classic account of the 1953 expedition.

When I asked Canadian Byron Smith about this some weeks ago, he said it would be his "legs and lungs" that would get him to the top. He had only signed up with our tour organisers, Himalayan Kingdom Expeditions, "for the logistics".

The self-confident and self-made millionaire meant that it



STEPHEN GOODWIN

Everest Diary

Base Camp

more correct. HKE have indeed supplied all the logistics, not just the travel, tents, sleeping bags, cooks, food and porters, but the guides who tell us when to move up the mountain, when to move down, what to wear and what to carry.

The bigger, or richer, expeditions decide which bits of the route up the mountain they are going to secure with rope lines so that members have only to clip in with karabiners (snap links) or jumars (a device that will slide up a rope but not down) and away they go. After that Byron is right, it is "legs and lungs" that get you to the top.

The weather remains a potential killer and there are accidents. But however costly at a personal level, they are mundane.

Two or three old hands here at Base Camp have suggested I go back up again and finish the job now the Hillary Step is laced up. It has been tempting. However, it would be difficult to arrange the Sherpa and other support for a second attempt.

In the hostile atmosphere that greeted our return to Camp 2 from the south summit, it was made plain by our so-called "team-mates" that Byron and I had had our shot and there was no mention of a second chance. There was great resentment that from our higher camp we – including leader Dave Walsh – had gone for what seemed at the time a brief weather window rather than wait for the others to move up from Base Camp.

And could I face the exhausting tedium of re-climbing 3,500 metres of snow and ice? To return to the South Col route would be endurance rather than adventure. And all to tick a summit I had no ambitions upon until a few days before I set off for Nepal.

For the likes of Josie, Byron and Sundee, Everest had become an obsession. For myself, I'd rather go climbing.



Climbers make their final approach to the summit of Everest

Photograph: AP

Home owners fear cost of vital repairs

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

WORRIES about the likely cost of housing repairs and mistrust of builders and surveyors are the main reasons why home owners put off tackling essential work on their properties according to a new report.

Most home owners identify routine repairs that are needed on their property, says the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Yet they often miss more complex problems or delay too long before taking action.

The report based on two academic studies – one in Bristol, Leicester and London, the other in Scotland – found that owners rarely sought advice from surveyors.

Instead they tended to diagnose the problem themselves or ask relatives or friends. Experience of the limited valuation surveys required by mortgage lenders had left some with the impression that a surveyor's

report would be expensive and uninformative. Owners mentioned bad experiences with "cowboy" builders including delays, bad workmanship and unreliable estimates. First-time buyers, recent movers and single women were especially unlikely to have dependable contacts in the building trade.

The authors of the report called for the Government and mortgage lenders to raise awareness of the importance of keeping homes in good repair. They also recommend that it should be made easier to find a trustworthy builder – in the short-term by a recommendation scheme for the industry and in the long term by government and the building industry working together to raise standards.

□ *"Make do and mend: Explaining home owners' approaches to repair and maintenance" is available from Biblios Publishers' Distribution Services, Star Road, Partridge Green, West Sussex RH13 8LD price £11.95 plus £2 p&p.*

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DAILY POEM

Dogs

By Alan Brownjohn

She was only a postman's daughter, but ...
She was only a publican's daughter, but ...
She was only a tobacconist's daughter, but ...

She was only a lighthousekeeper's daughter ...
— They had what it takes, and it seems the world allowed them to use it. Were their humble fathers proud?

Did their daughters learn it from them, take after them?
Or were the girls defying them, getting blamed
For leaving those old men bitter and ashamed?

What of their mothers? We are over told
Which way, if any, they wanted their girls to go.
What part they played we never get to know.

Their mothers were like dogs that never barked
When footfalls fell during nights as black as ink.
What kept them quiet? Whose daughters were they, do you think?

Our poems today and tomorrow come from the latest issue of *Ambit* magazine, edited by Martin Bax and featuring its usual rich mixture of poetry, prose, art and reviews. *Ambit* 152 costs £6 (or £22 for a year's subscription) from 17 Priority Gardens, London N.6 5QY.

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Legal & General

Sphinxlike: £2m facelift ready to be unveiled

CAIRO (REUTERS)—Egypt fêted the newly restored Sphinx last night in a lavish, star-studded celebration at the pyramids at Giza overlooking the ancient man-lion structure.

President Hosni Mubarak and his wife, Suzanne, were hosting a party, entertained by a sound and light show detailing the Sphinx's 4,500-year-old tale.

Egyptian archaeologists and architects have spent 10 years repairing the ravages of erosion and rising damp and removing concrete used in earlier work to fix the soft stone structure.

The government hopes the £1.9m restoration will lure more tourists to the Giza plateau and recoup some of the losses Egypt's vital tourism industry suffered after Islamic militants killed 58 holidaymakers in Luxor last November.



The Sphinx at Giza shrouded by a white sheet spangled with gold stars before the official unveiling of the restored statue last night. Photograph: AFP.

Kohl turns to tabloid spin doctor

By Imre Karacs
in Bonn

ROLLING up his sleeves for the coming street-fight, Chancellor Helmut Kohl dumped his chief spokesman yesterday and hired a former tabloid editor to revamp his flagging election campaign.

Ministers had been complaining for months that the message was not getting through. So now, lagging far behind the opposition in the polls, the messenger has been executed.

Peter Hausmann, the 47-year-old voice of Europe's longest-reigning heavyweight, was informed some time around noon yesterday that he was no longer in charge of a committee meeting, owing to his premature retirement from politics. Mr Hausmann had earlier pinned his hopes on a parliamentary seat, in the colours of Bavaria's Christian Social Union.

Coming on the day when a government minister was trying to explain the oversight of not reporting dangerous nuclear leaks to the public, the dismissal of the chief spokesman was not all that surprising.

Mr Hausmann had been criticised as somewhat ineffectual, caught reluctantly in an impossible job, failing to be the permanently smiling face of a

media-unfriendly administration. He is to be succeeded by Otto Hauser, an MP of Mr Kohl's Christian Democrat party.

Little is known of Mr Hauser, but rather more about the second person to enter Mr Kohl's service yesterday. He is Hans-Hermann Tiedje, former editor of *Bild Zeitung*, the most successful German tabloid, who joins the Kohl bandwagon as "campaign adviser".

Mr Hausmann was of the old school, a serious journalist ill-suited to the dirty world of politics. No one has ever slandered Mr Tiedje as an intellectual. His career is as far down-market as one can get in Germany, and his arrival heralds a shift in Mr Kohl's election strategy.

The Chancellor has been obliterated by his glibzy opponent, the Social Democrats' Gerhard Schröder. The challenger is young, vigorous, and smiles all the time. With four months to go to the elections and the Chancellor six points behind in the polls, there will be a relaunch of the Kohl-product. Expect him to talk about Europe a lot less, and to pop into discos in search of the youth vote. And the Chancellor's frame is certain to start filling the television screens.

Cootent - who needs that? Now the fight is on.

Slovaks defy nuclear fears

By Imre Karacs

THE SLOVAKIAN government defied international concerns yesterday when it vowed to commission a Soviet-designed nuclear reactor deemed unsafe by experts.

Slovakia ignored protests from Austria, whose border runs near Mochovce the Soviet-designed plant at Bohunice, and said it would ignite the fuel rods within days.

The Austrian government said the move was an "affront to Austria" and appealed to the British presidency of the European Union for help.

Tension between the two countries has been rising since a visit to Mochovce last week by a team of 22 experts. Wolfgang Kromp, the Austrian physicist

leading the team, gave warning of "the biggest accident imaginable, with catastrophic consequences". He was particularly concerned about inadequate containment facilities to cope with a Chernobyl-style leak, and possible weaknesses in the steel casing designed to prevent radioactive materials escaping. "Access to data which could have removed this uncertainty was denied," he said.

Austria is in a dilemma. Slovakia cannot close the plant until it has another source of energy. Austria wants to keep good relations with Slovakia, hoping to encourage Bratislava not lock itself out of Europe.

Nato and the EU have rejected Slovakia's application over its record on human rights and its lack of democracy.

Brussels adds a surreal touch to Magritte show

ART LOVERS heading for Belgium beware, writes Imre Karacs. There is, by all accounts, a wonderful exhibition of René Magritte's life works on in Brussels. So wonderful, in fact, that the authorities in the Capital of Europe have decided to keep foreigners away, lest their glance should besmirch the greatest Belgian artist's canvas. Posters announce that all tickets for Magritte are "sold out". Until the end of June, that is, when the exhibition closes. But it does not seem to be packed. There are no queues, only crowds outside, holding up

"SOS Magritte" cards in the hope of attracting a friendly tout. Because tickets are being sold. "You are unlucky," said the lady at the cashier's desk with a smile. "I've just sold the last two for today." That was news to an Italian, who had been waiting since the previous day. Tickets, he was told, were out for sale. "You fool," a friend in Bonn greeted me upon my return. "All you have to do is buy the annual museum pass." Maybe. But the surest way to see a Magritte is probably to wait until the show reaches a less surreal city, one that can deal with the foreign hordes.

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Prisoners who refuse to come out of jail

By Richard Lloyd Parry

ONE night in November 1993, a month before she was due to be married, Sri Rahayu dreamed that her fiancé's engagement ring disappeared from her finger. They had known one another for six years; in ten days' time they were due to be married. When Sri Rahayu woke the next morning in her village in Central Java, the ring was still there. But her fiancé, Nuku, had gone. Yesterday she stood outside Cipinang prison in Jakarta, with her ring still on her finger, still waiting for him to come back.

A fortnight ago, the only hope was patience. Nuku Sulaiman received a four year sentence - increased to five on appeal - for "insulting" President Suharto. His crime was to have printed a series of stickers reading "Suharto, Puppet Mas-

ter of Disaster", and he was due to complete his sentence in August. But last night, the government of the new President B J Habibie found themselves in the bizarre position of pleading with their own political prisoners to leave their cells and walk out of prison.

Five days into his term as Indonesia's president, Mr Habibie took his most significant step yet towards promised political "reforms" by pledging to release of the country's prisoners of conscience. By last night, "negotiations" were underway with two of the most prominent - Sri Bintang Pamungkas, another insulter of Suharto, and the dissident trade union leader, Muchtar Pakpahan. Their release has been agreed, but it appeared to be held up on a remarkable technicality - while the government called its change of heart an "amnesty", the two were refusing liberty.

"The correct words should be 'freed from any conditions at all'," said Sri Bintang earlier. "Freedom is really our right."

As the two waved and smiled from the prison balcony yesterday, hundreds of friends, relatives and supporters of prisoners, including Sri Rahayu, gathered outside, singing, chanting and blocking the road. East Timorese called for the release of their guerrilla leader Xanana Gusmao - at present, the Timorese resistance and the communists seem unlikely to win pardons, but that may change in time.

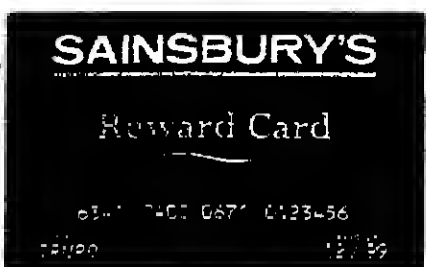
A few weeks ago, in any case, to have unfurled banners reading "Free Xanana" or supporting the outlawed People's Democratic Party would have meant instant arrest by vigilant police. Yesterday, the soldiers looked on without interfering, apparently as jubilant and relieved as everyone else.



Jailed trade union leader Muchtar Pakpahan is welcomed by supporters at Cipinang prison in Jakarta yesterday

Photograph: Vitasari/Reuters

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Indonesia prepares to enter a new era

By Richard Lloyd Parry
in Jakarta

IN A startlingly swift reaction to the economic and political crisis engulfing Indonesia, President BJ Habibie yesterday promised to release political prisoners, hold early elections, and comprehensively overhaul his country's discredited legal and political systems.

In a televised cabinet meeting, his third speech to the nation within five days of taking office, Mr Habibie set out a programme which, if implemented, would dismantle the apparatus of 32 years of repression under President Suharto in the space of a year.

The President's speech was the latest in a series of gestures designed to convince both Indonesians and the outside world that the new government is genuinely intent on reforming Indonesia after months of vociferous student demonstrations and riots which killed 500 people in Jakarta and led to the sudden resignation of President Suharto last week.

In the afternoon, the new justice minister, Muladi, appeared on the balcony of Jakarta's Cipinang Jail to confirm that some of the country's thousands of political prisoners would be released, beginning tomorrow.

The chief of the armed forces, General Wiranto, widely suspected of being the real power behind the new government, made his own gesture of openness with the announcement of a report into the incident which sparked last week's uprising in Jakarta: the deaths of six university students, shot by military snipers during a peaceful demonstration at Jakarta's elite Trisakti University.

"Eight armed forces soldiers are suspected of shooting the students," he said. "Also six officers are suspected of supporting the

incident through unprocedural and undisciplined actions."

In the last few days, General Wiranto has consolidated his hold on the military by purging a number of senior officers including the former president's ambitious son-in-law, Lieutenant-General Prabowo Subianto. He also announced that his wife and daughter had resigned their seats in the People's Consultative Assembly, a parliamentary assembly created as a forum for Suharto clones.

In another grim portent for the former regime, the government announced a review of contracts with companies associated with members of Mr Suharto's family. The energy minister said he would review contracts between the state oil company Pertamina and its affiliates Pertamina and Perindo, controlled by Suharto's sons, Tommy and Bambang. The city of Jakarta announced a review of deals with foreign companies, including Thames Water, and a son and business associate of the former president.

Many Indonesians are sceptical of the sincerity of Mr Habibie's intentions, and his promises yesterday did little to stir the beleaguered rupiah or the Jakarta share market which closed down 1.26 per cent at 40 points. This morning, the International Monetary Fund's Asia Director, Hubert Neilsen, arrived to resume negotiations on the IMF's aid package which was repeatedly derailed by Mr Suharto's changes of mind.

"We must honestly admit that our success in overcoming the economic crisis depends largely on foreign loans, especially to finance imports of raw material and spare parts," President Habibie said yesterday.

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هكذا من الأصل

The flight of the great dictators

As President Suharto contemplates life after dictatorship, his fellow despots show it is possible still to find a safe haven

FORMER president Suharto of Indonesia is probably feeling more apprehensive now than he has done at any time in the last 34 years, as he contemplates his future. He has certainly made adequate financial arrangements for himself and his family, but he cannot guarantee he will have access to the billions he has milked from the Indonesian economy. Neither can he guarantee that he will even be able to stay in his own country.

Nevertheless, the fate of the dictators of the second half of the twentieth century does not represent a universally bleak picture for him. True, many men of his age or thereabouts died soon after leaving office. President Mobutu of Zaire did not have a long and happy retirement; neither did the Central African Republic's Emperor Bokassa, or Malawi's Hastings Banda. Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines keeled over when in exile in Hawaii.

But there are others who are managing to live in comfort, and even luxury - no matter how many thousands of their own people they murdered. Idi Amin Dada of Uganda was in power for nine years between 1971 and 1979. During this time, he set new standards of cruelty and violence until he fled the country in 1979 following a Tanzanian-backed invasion. After he was ousted, it was estimated that he had been responsible for the murder of 300,000 of his own subjects - a rate of 7,000 a week.

After his expulsion, Amin escaped to Libya and later to Saudi Arabia, where he was provided with a house and an income.

Mengistu Haile Mariam, the former Ethiopian dictator, is being tried in absentia for genocide and crimes against humanity. Despite extradition attempts, "the black Stalin" found safe haven in Harare in 1991 courtesy of another African despot, Robert Mugabe. The cost to the increasingly impoverished Zimbabwean taxpayer for Mengistu's security and the other expenses has so far topped £1m.

Millions of Ethiopians died of famine and civil war under Mengistu's rigid Marxist rule. He and former political cronies are accused of ordering the execution of 1,823 opponents, including former Emperor Haile Selassie.

In November 1995, Mengistu escaped an assassination attempt by an Eritrean who later told a Zimbabwean court that his genitals were permanently damaged after he was



The US went into Panama with guns blazing in 1989, calling it "Operation Just Cause". The object of the exercise was to oust the man known as Old Pineapple Face: General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the so-called "military strongman" of the isthmus state. It took 25,000 US troops and cost \$150 million between three and four hundred Panamanians were killed in what became a personal crusade for George Bush. Noriega was dragged to America, put on trial and convicted.

Once, he was a key ally of the Americans, and on the CIA payroll. But nine years later, Noriega is in prison in Homestead, Florida, serving a forty year stretch for drug trafficking, conspiracy and racketeering. The former dictator has fought his sentence, arguing - amongst other things - that a key witness was bribed, and did not testify truthfully. But just a month ago, the Supreme Court let the conviction stand.



General Alfredo Stroessner has lived in Brazil since 1989, when another General, Andres Rodriguez, put an end to his 35 years of organised corruption and repression. His rule was characterised by "disappearances" of left-wing opponents, who no doubt passed through his clandestine torture camps before they were disposed of. He gave haven to Nazis, "bought" virgin schoolgirls from their parents, and, it is said, made the trains run on time. Brazil has resisted Paraguay's attempts to have him extradited - arguing that when he was deposed he was a victim of political persecution.



The claim is pleasing, the apartment comfortable and well situated in an exclusive high-rise with a marvellous view over Panama Bay. This is the Panamanian hideaway where Raul Cedras, the disgraced former Haitian military chief, spends his days, quietly writing his memoirs - and no doubt doing a bit of shopping in the luxury shopping malls of the exclusive Palilla neighbourhood. As part of the agreement to persuade Cedras to leave Haiti, the United States agreed to pay him, and his wife and three children, a monthly allowance of \$5,000 - perhaps to tide him over till he got his hands on some of the millions he squandered away in US banks during his time in charge. Cedras ruled Haiti during a brutal three-year dictatorship that ended in 1994. The terrified citizens of Haiti danced in the streets in their thousands when a US chartered plane whisked him away. The Haitian authorities then wanted him extradited to answer charges of homicide, torture, and illegal detention of Haitian citizens, but so far without success.

tortured by Mengistu's henchmen.

Otherwise, Mengistu has been sitting pretty. However he is said to be jittery about the increasing unpopularity of Mr Mugabe. If opposition groups in Zimbabwe have their way the two dictators may soon be house sharing in some foreign backwater. It is forecast that the teetering Mugabe will not last until 2002, the next presidential elections.

Jean-Claude (Baby Doc) Duvalier, 46, former Haitian dictator and French Riviera playboy, fled Haiti in 1986 and has been virtually a missing person for three years. He is still living in France, flitting from apart-

ment to apartment among the exiled Haitian community. His last known address was in Saint-Cloud, in the western suburbs of Paris, where his mother - Mama-Doc, wife of Papa-Doc, Haitian dictator for three decades - died on 26 December last year.

At first, Baby Doc lived in some style with his wife, two children and mother at a villa in Vallauris, near Cannes, rented for £80,000 a year. In 1990 his wife, Michèle, having gone through much of their money, left him for a local businessman. When they were divorced in 1991, Michèle got custody of the children

and most of what remained of the cash. Baby Doc clung on at the villa, with his mother, until 1994. After failing to pay the rent for several

Report by Mary Braid, Robert Fisk, John Lichfield, Phil Davison and James Roberts

months, he was forced into a one-room bungalow. A cloud of other unpaid bills forced him to leave the Riviera the following year; since then he has been reported to be in the Paris area, staying with a series of exiled Haitian friends. In April last year, he told a Miami radio station he

wanted to help transform Haiti into a "pluralist democracy" devoted to "liberty, peace, progress and reconciliation".

Mr Suharto would probably rather not wish to follow the example of Manuel Noriega of Panama - currently incarcerated in a Florida jail. He may reflect, on the other hand, that Raul Cedras, responsible for the untold suffering of thousands of Haitians, is living in some style in Panama. Under a deal cut by mediators led by former US President Jimmy Carter, Cedras and his henchmen fled Haiti and he has since lived in a luxury apartment

block called the Nuevo Emperador in Panama's Palilla district.

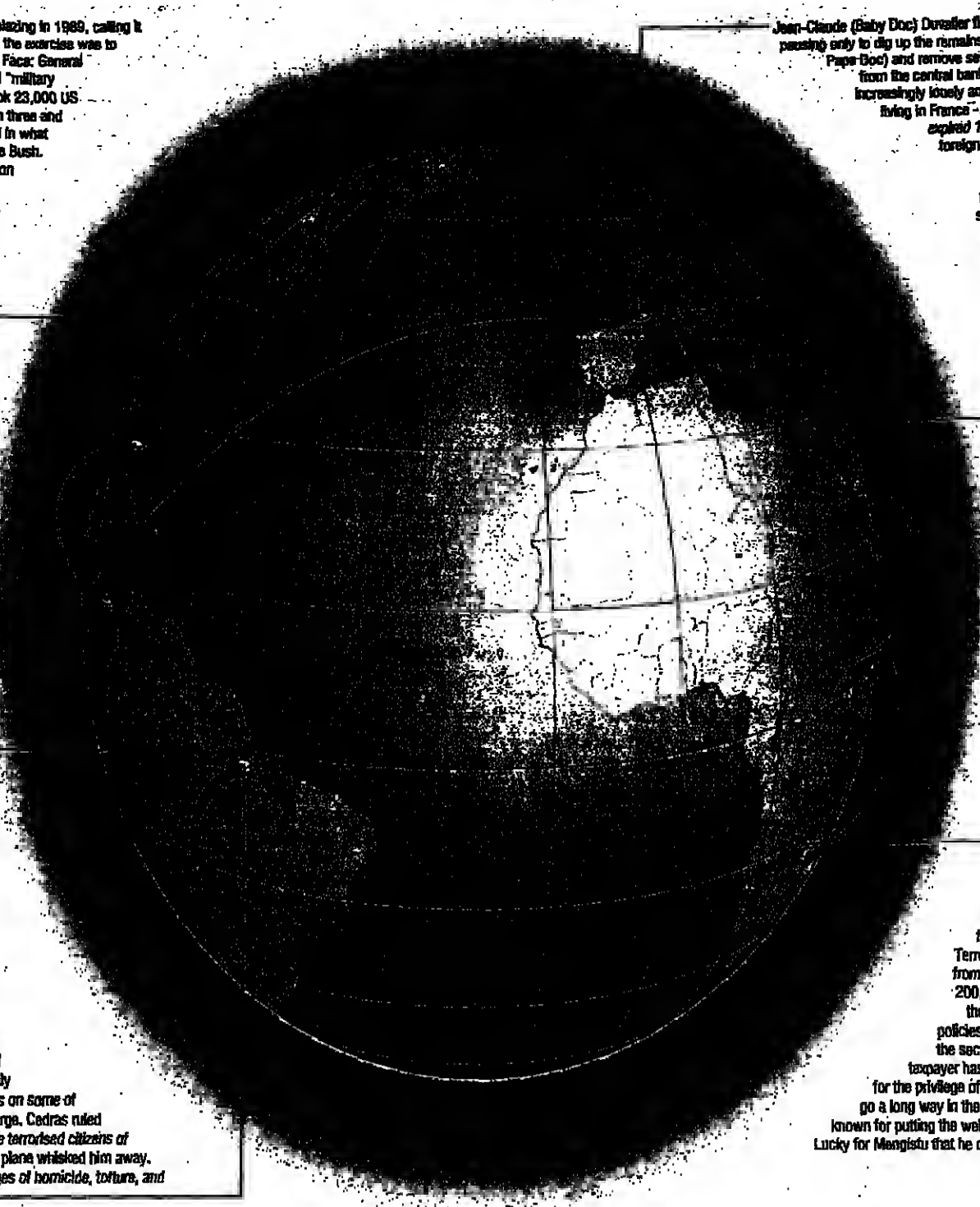
Cedras is said to be a wealthy man from the proceeds of arms and narcotics sales and other businesses he was cut into while in power.

Haiti has asked for his extradition but the Panamanian authorities have always found technicalities they say make extradition impossible.

Alfredo Stroessner, who during a time in power that lasted roughly as long as Suharto's, tortured and murdered his way through the Paraguayan opposition. But he now lives in neighbouring Brazil, in a mansion on the outskirts of the capital, Brasilia.

Granted asylum by the Brazilian authorities, he and his wife keep a low profile in the upmarket Lago Sul district, favoured by foreign diplomats, politicians and company executives. He rarely ventures beyond his front porch, where the couple have occasionally been seen sunning themselves, but he is said to be still a very wealthy man.

But Suharto might be most attracted to the example of one General Pinochet of Chile, who ousted a democratically-elected Marxist government in 1973, but after a career littered with atrocities has now just been made a senator for life.



Jean-Claude (Baby Doc) Duvalier fled his native Haiti in February 1986, passing only to dig up the remains of his father (the even more reviled Papa Doc) and remove several hundred million dollars in cash from the central bank. His life in exile has been increasingly lonely and increasingly less quiet. He is still living in France - technically on an eight day visit that expired 12 years ago - but refuses the French foreign ministry's offer of the present address. He has been trying to get home to Haiti. This seems unlikely, if he did so, he might face criminal charges and would lose the right to return to France. In April last year, he gave a telephone interview to a radio station in Miami in which he said he intended to play a "full role" as a "simple worker" in the transformation of Haiti into a "Pluralist democracy" devoted to "liberty, peace, progress and reconciliation."



Not long ago, a female news agency reporter in Paris took a call from a man who rambled on for almost half an hour about the vagaries of Ugandan politics.

"There's a girl here claiming to be 'Amin', the woman laughed to her colleagues. She was quietly told, it was indeed the former Ugandan dictator. He called the news agency almost every week to chat about affairs back home. Life was that boring in his Saudi exile.

Returned to have both a swimming pool and a large villa at his disposal, ex-President Amin has been guarded by Saudi security men ever since he fled Uganda. He has been seen in Mecca making the traditional Muslim pilgrimage, dressed only in a long white gown, but his residency is conditional on not making political statements.



Mengistu Haile Mariam is lucky that there is at least one like-minded Marxist-Leninist still in power in Africa. In Zimbabwe's President, Robert Mugabe, he has a friend of iron loyalty. Under the "Red Terror" that Mengistu visited on Ethiopia from 1977 to 1991 between 50,000 and 200,000 people perished. Impressed by the political correctness of Mengistu's policies, Mugabe has given him a luxurious home near Harare, with all the security he could wish for, and he has made sure the Zimbabwean taxpayer has coughed up getting on for a million pounds over recent years, for the privilege of having the former dictator as a neighbour. That money would go a long way in the impoverished rural areas of Zimbabwe, but Mugabe is not well known for putting the welfare of his own people before the friendship of Marxist cronies. Lucky for Mengistu that he didn't have to settle for the hospitality of another member of the old club - Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang.



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Straight from the author's mouth

Some writers reveal a natural eloquence when they read from their work. The Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison has such a gift. By Michael Glover



Toni Morrison (above) read from her new novel with relaxed, mellow, good-humoured authority. Photograph: UPP

BOOK LOVERS are becoming increasingly passionate about making literary dates with live authors in performance – the touch, smell, see and (almost) feel factor. For example, seldom has a mere novelist received such a rapturous welcome as the black, Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison when she appeared at the Institute of Education in central London.

They stood and cheered. They waved their discounted copies of her new novel in the air. Why? Because the event was organised by Dillos, and Toni Morrison is not so much an individual novelist as a representative voice of black people throughout the world – the voice of people shaping and redefining their own histories.

She therefore appeals to two quite distinct types of reader. She is both a popular author, who writes with a compelling simplicity, and a favourite choice of those preparing arduous theses on the classics of slave literature. She wins both ways.

The earnest human resources manager with the badly-chipped, green toenails who was sitting next to me told me that she had tried and tried again to get on to the Toni Morrison option at Cape Town University, where she had majored in English. Alas, the course was too popular...

But some authors seem to have a natural, God-given eloquence, too. Words issue from them, unforced, like water from a mountain spring, with a glorious shapeliness and cogency. Seamus Heaney is such a man. And so was Laurie Lee, though he may have hunched the truth somewhat from time to time to fit the demands of the retelling.

One of the consequences of this gift is that lesser mortals become confounded in the presence of such people. They seem

awkward, flustered, ill at ease, incapable of competing in the race at all...

This thought struck me as I watched and listened to Toni Morrison reading from *Paradise*. There was a great dignity and serenity about the performance.

sentences that seemed to have been honed beforehand. A girl asked her about the influence of music upon her use of language. Generally speaking, music was of secondary importance, replied Morrison. A more crucial matter was the act of col-

make this a palpable and passionate event...

More's the pity then that the organisers should have chosen the editor of the *Times*, Peter Stothard, to introduce a woman who was capable of choosing her words with such care; and with such attention to the radiant detail.

Poor Stothard, looked inside his dark and dingy day suit, looked sweaty, pent and mildly embarrassed. He bore an uncanny resemblance to a bit-twirling John Majorette – or could that have been a mere trick of the light? His salt-and-pepper hair seemed freshly sheared by some madman who had just jumped out from behind the hut in the allotment. Had the madman charged for his grotesque performance – or had Stothard thrown the money at him before taking to his heels? We shall never know.

All he could think to say when Toni Morrison had finished reading from her book was: "Thank you, thank you, thank you, and... well, thank you once again... I hope that the audience will now come down from the hypnotic state in which you are..." We all laughed. Well, what intelligent person – and there were many of them in this audience – would not have laughed at such a sentence structure?

But it was not the sentence structure aloe, it was the way in which the words had managed to slip out of his mouth in the first place, as if the appearance of every single one had involved not only an act of pushing out, but also a simultaneous swallowing – difficult, dangerous and evidently painful – of individual teeth.

Toni Morrison, being gracious and forgiving, merely smiled indulgently.

'Paradise' is published by Chatto & Windus, price £16.99.

'Paradise' follows the lives of four young Oklahoma women who take refuge in a former convent in the state. The passage below is from the novel's opening:

'They shoot the white girl first. With the rest they can take their time. No need to hurry out here. They are seventeen miles from a town which has ninety miles between it and any other. Hiding places will be plentiful in the Convent, but there is time and the day has just begun.'

'They are nine, over twice the number of the women they are obliged to stampede or kill and they have the paraphernalia for either requirement: rope, a palm leaf cross, handcuffs, Mace and sunglasses, along with clean, handsome guns.'

'They have never been this deep in the Convent. Some of them have parked Chevrolts near its porch to pick up a string of peppers or have gone into the kitchen for a gallon of barbecue sauce; but only a few have seen the halls, the chapel, the schoolrooms, the bedrooms. Now they all will.'

Reading with relaxed, mellow, good-humoured authority she picked about amidst her words like some gardener working a familiar, beloved plot, taking every phrase, and every word within each of those phrases, at its natural pace.

She answered questions in

laboration between author and reader.

"I'd like my language to invite and have resonances that the reader supplies, to summon up complicated thoughts and feelings. You bring your own sexuality into a scene. If the words are placed right, we together

Why is Mona Lisa smiling? Because she likes the music

A new production takes the paintings and drawings of Leonardo da Vinci and turns them into life using dance and 16th-century music. By Richard D North

WILLIAM Kemp is so beautiful you would not really need an excuse to go and watch him dance, but his performance tonight in the Covent Garden Festival will be something more than a display of lithe, athletic and rhythmic muscularity. It will also be a display of musculature for its own sake – and then something more than that, too.

On the table in Kemp's rehearsal studio lies a copy of Eadweard Muybridge's book of photographs of freeze-framed moving bodies – a clue to the observational mission in which the dancer is engaged. Under Netia Davan Weiton's direction, he aims to animate not just what we see in Leonardo da Vinci's paintings and drawings, but something of the spirit behind them.

The project is titled *Music for the Mona Lisa*. The music is early 16th century, mostly

Italian and French, and is played by Concordia, the early music group directed by Mark Levy.

The inspiration for the project was provided by Vasari's *Lives of the Artists* (published in 1550), in which Levy read that da Vinci created the Mona Lisa while listening to music.

The artist loved, understood and played music. It satisfied his mission to see the mathematical

underlying the arts. And it was always accepted that music played most directly on the emotions. Hence the probable interest in playing both artist and sinner some upbeat tunes from the now emotionally free music available at the start of the 16th century.

One of the da Vinci quotations in the readings which accompany Kemp's dancing is Concordia's music captures

this: "A good painter must paint two things above all others: the person and the intent of that person's soul." This required a painter to capture mood and expression, and that required a "snapshot" approach. Hence the excitement surrounding the Mona Lisa: the smile was quite new to art, and the artist's devotion to a fleeting moment demonstrates high technical achievement.

This was frozen movement as surely as a Muybridge, or one of Kemp's sudden stillnesses, threatening to topple over, at the end of a vigorous jump or two. Suddenly, he is a spear-thrower, arrested, as though ready for dissection by da Vinci's scalpel or pencil.

In a second Concordia performance of early 16th-century music, Levy and his collaborator will concentrate on the pas-

sion for melancholy. Concordia will play viol music as a background to Crye, a very strong but accessible poem commissioned from and read by Glyn Maxwell, about the grief of the English Civil War.

Levy says: "There is a great deal of miserable music for viol. It can make very fugitive, sombre music. It was often used at funerals and solemn occasions. In fact, much of the music for

Crye is Elizabethan and early Jacobean, rather earlier than the Civil War."

'Music for the Mona Lisa', BOC Covent Garden Festival of Opera and Music Theatre, Covent Garden Theatre, London WC2. 7.30pm, 26 May (0171 420 0171). *'Crye'*, Old Operating Theatre, London SE1. 7.30pm, 9 June (0171 955 4791). CDs are available on Metronome (01326 377738).

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Dr Malcolm Peet with some of the fish oil-based tablets that some schizophrenia sufferers claim have drastically improved their lives

Photograph: Peter Byrne

On the trail of an unwitting TB carrier

"MORNING Mr Bourner"
"Morning, Dr Thornton"
"I was hoping we'd bump into each other."
"Forgive my scepticism, but I've never yet met a GP who wanted to bump into patients outside the surgery."
"And also, bumping implies an element of randomness. Whereas you turning up in the waiting room of the Rainbow Valley Alternative Complementary Healing Farm on the day of my appointment suggests an element of pre-planning."
"OK, I'll come clean."
"If you ever get struck off, doctor, you could be an extra in *The Bill*."

"Look, let's cut to the quick. I've had an urgent phone call from Dr Fentamen at Johnny's."
"And?"
"He says that the reason you've had night sweats and coughed up a bit of blood is because you've got tuberculosis."

"I know that..."
"Yes, but you were discharged from hospital two weeks ago with strict instructions to return three times a week to have your drugs under supervision. And you've only been once..."
"So?"
"So Dr Fentamen's very worried."

"He's not capable of emotion. Look in his eyes and he blanks you. There's nothing behind them."
"Well there must be something. He's Editor of the European Journal of Respiratory Physiology."
"Look, I don't like the man and I don't like his drugs. I got indigestion and my urine went red."

"That's the rifampicin. You should have been warned about that..."
"I was. But they didn't tell me my tears would go red too. My girlfriend thinks I'm possessed..."
"Look, anti-tuberculosis drugs are very powerful because they need to be. And you need to take them for at least six months because it's a very difficult disease to eradicate..."
"Why?"
"Well, from what I can remember, the bug that causes it..."
"Bug?"
"Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It has a thick cell wall with a large lipid content, which allows it to survive inside host cells and resist digestion by preventing phagosome-lysosome fusion."

"You've lost me there..."
"But the body's immune system keeps fighting, so you end up with a chronic T-cell mediated inflammatory response, with the formation of granulomas where the mycobacteria can lie dormant for many years..."
"If they're lying dormant, why not let them be..."
"Because yours aren't anymore. You got sick on your last trip across Asia, your body's immune system went down, and the TB you picked up on your first trip re-activated. We call it post-primary TB..."
"But I've been travelling for 30 years..."

"And you could have had it for thirty years. If I did chest X-rays on all my elderly patients, a lot of them would show signs of old TB infection..."
"So you're treating all of them with urine-staining poison?"
"No because they have no symptoms. Their TB is inactive. But yours is open, which means you could get seriously ill without treatment. You might even die."

"Are you trying to scare me?"
"No, I'm just giving you the facts."
"Well, allow me to tell you how I feel. When I was in Johnny's I felt like shit. That place has a serious karma problem. The walls are grey, there's no sunlight, there's no privacy, you can't get any sleep, the food's inedible and the staff are miserable as sin."

"And yes, I did think I might die. But since I've stopped taking the drugs and come home, I'm eating well, getting some sunlight and healing myself. And I feel much better already."
"What do you mean, healing yourself?"
"Through meditation and prayer. Focusing the mind's capacity to heal the body through the third eye. And then there's Mrs Linton."

"Who's she?"
"A healer here at the Rainbow Valley. She's harnessing a harmonious parapsychological healing energy and transmitting it through her to me."
"Mphphph."
"What?"
"You don't believe all that bollocks, surely?"
"Yes I do actually. I can feel the energy running into me - like a warm sensation - and my aura feels much better after. So, I don't need you drugs, thank you doctor."

"Listen Mr Bourner. I don't care whether you live or die. But active TB is highly infectious and you're putting others close to you at risk. So you'd damn well better take the tablets. Or else."

"Dr Thornton, can I ask you - have you ever any communication skills training?"
"No."
"Now why doesn't that surprise me? Ah, Mrs Linton's calling me now. See you around."

"I'll be here when you get out..."
"What should Dr Thornton do?"
Continued next week...



DR PHIL HAMMOND

Is fish oil the cure for schizophrenia?

Sufferers around the world say adding the simplest medicine to their treatment has changed their lives. By Kendra Inman

ONE day last year Anne logged on to the Internet and as usual went straight to the schizophrenia forum. What she read there has, she claims, transformed her life and that of her 40-year-old schizophrenic son. The article described how researchers at the University of Sheffield believe the key to treating schizophrenia may be found in fish oil.

Anne put her son, who was already taking the schizophrenia drugs Zyprexa and Lithium, on high doses of fish oil. Since then he has improved daily.

"He has been homebound for years," she told fellow Internet surfers. "He is now fishing, hitting golf balls in the yard and reading the sports page."

Before long other benefits emerged, she says. A few weeks after taking the oil her son's doctor was confident enough about his progress to lower the dosage of his other drugs and, "he is now doing even better."

Anne's experience caused a stir on the schizophrenia web site. Over recent months, a flurry of e-mails have passed between schizophrenia sufferers and their families about the benefits of fish oil. If other families experience the same remarkable changes the effect on the NHS, as well as thousands of sufferers will be dramatic.

Each year the NHS spends £810m on treating Britain's schizophrenics. They are the third most costly group of patients to the NHS, after learning disability and stroke victims. Over £32 million is spent on drugs like the anti-psychotics used to control the most disturbing schizophrenic symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions and voices.

Now psychiatrist Dr Malcolm Peet and his team at Sheffield believe they have found a treatment which is easily obtainable and at a fraction of the cost of drug therapies.

So far two studies have shown that patients given high doses of fish oil in addition to

their usual drugs have seen symptoms improve by more than a quarter. In September last year, the researchers at Sheffield took the investigation a stage further, using several different formulations of EPA, a type of fish oil, and 75 patients - the research should be completed by the summer.

Dr Peet is pleased with the results so far but emphasises that the work is at an early stage. On no account must patients stop taking their medication and rely on fish oil, he says. "We have no proof to support a sole treatment approach," he says.

One hundred and fifty miles away in Hammersmith Hospi-

Six weeks into treatment and Dr Puri was amazed: "I have never seen a patient get better so quickly."

tal London, one man has watched with astonishment the remarkable transformation of a 31-year-old schizophrenic after treatment with EPA - a change all the more remarkable because the patient had never undergone conventional drug treatment for his condition.

Like Dr Peet, Basant Puri, consultant psychiatrist at Hammersmith hospital, was aware of studies linking schizophrenia with a depletion of certain fatty acids. But studies were hindered by the fact that most schizophrenics receive drug treatments of one form or another. As a result it was hard for researchers to have a clear picture of the effect of substances like EPA.

"The ideal is to have patients who are drug naive", Dr Puri

explains. "I came across a patient who had refused medication and, after I explained the hypothesis to him, he was keen to try the fish oil."

Only six weeks into treatment and Dr Puri and his patient were amazed at the improvements: "I have never seen a patient get better so quickly."

The man had suffered hallucinations and was anxious and withdrawn when he arrived at Dr Puri's clinic. He had been diagnosed as a schizophrenic three years before but had only ever taken one tablet of the drug sulpiride - he refused to take any more after experiencing side-effects.

After a daily dose of EPA, "he is now up and about and trying to pursue an Open University degree course," Dr Puri says. He is convinced that the man's recovery is no fluke. The patient's illness had never been episodic and his symptoms had been constant for two years. Also he had been involved with several research studies and so was unlikely to have improved as a result of extra attention he got from the team.

Schizophrenia is the most feared and misunderstood mental illness. In the eyes of the public it turns its 250,000 British sufferers from Dr Jekylls into Mr Hydes, ordinary men and women into killers. Ill-informed press coverage has demonised sufferers and fuelled public fears about the condition.

The community care reforms have been condemned for releasing vulnerable and sometimes volatile or dangerous individuals into the community without proper support.

Fragile support networks have broken down and led to a number of well-publicised tragedies.

In the 1950s, two French doctors discovered the first anti-psychotic drug, Chlorpromazine, which revolutionised the treatment of severe mental illness and allowed people to be treated in the community.

In the last 40 years doctors have learned to transplant hearts and make babies in tubes, but there has been surprisingly little progress in drug therapies during that time, says Dr Peet.

The first drug was quickly followed by others that act in much the same way, by blocking messages to receptors in the brain. Even the latest versions produce a range of distressing and damaging side effects.

While they work to reduce hallucinations and delusions they do nothing for the apathy and emotional bluntness experienced by patients, says Dr Peet. And large doses can make these symptoms worse.

New kids on the block, such as Clozapine, produce fewer side effects but have other problems. Schizophrenics on anti-psychotic drugs can also develop the symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease and experience stiff muscles, a shuffling walk and limited facial movements.

About a fifth of patients on long-term treatment develop a condition called tardive dyskinesia, with sudden involuntary facial or body movements and difficulty swallowing and walking. Long-term drug treatment exacerbates the condition and there is evidence that symptoms continue even after drug treat-

ment stops, leaving patients, "effectively brain damaged".

The fish oil story began five years ago after Dr Peet noticed that a number of studies found evidence that due to a genetic flaw, schizophrenics' cell membranes lack certain polyunsaturated fatty acids which affects the development of the brain.

Inspired by this work, Dr Peet's team conducted a pilot study in 1993 of 20 patients. The results were encouraging.

They indicated that the more polyunsaturated fatty acids a patient consumed the fewer symptoms they had.

Determined to test the theory further, a year later the Sheffield team conducted a

It is a shame that schizophrenics have had to wait 40 years for something available in the local chemist

trial to see if supplementing patients' diets with high doses of fatty acids would repair the damage and affect the course and outcome of the condition.

In a double blind trial that demands neither side knows what they are administering or receiving, 45 patients already on anti-psychotics and still exhibiting symptoms took one of two types of fish oil, EPA or

DHA, or a corn oil placebo. The results were startling. The team found symptoms reduced by a quarter in those who took EPA.

Snake oil, fish oil, what's the difference some asked? Dr Peet admits to having encountered initial scepticism from psychiatrists but a great deal of interest by nutritionists.

If fish oil proves to be the key to a new dawn in the treatment of schizophrenia then Dr Peet will make an unconventional hero. With his shoulder-length grey hair and snappy suits he is a long way from the lab-coated boffin stereotype.

Dr Peet laughs at the idea that he is a radical. "I am conventional in my clinical practice, I can assure you," he says.

Based on results so far, people suffering from schizophrenia could do worse than take concentrated fish oil supplements readily available in pharmacies and health food shops.

While not the pure form used by researchers they do contain large amounts of EPA and the evidence so far suggests it would be beneficial, he says. With the scientist's caution, he adds: "Let me put it another way - if I were a schizophrenic I would be taking it."

If Dr Peet is right then for many, distressing side effects could be a thing of the past.

The shame is that people suffering from schizophrenia have had to wait over 40 years for something that they could have bought in the local chemist.

* *Costs of Schizophrenia*, Martin Knapp, *British Journal of Psychiatry* (1997), 171, 509-518.

Time is needed to make any cure 100% effective

IF FISH oil genuinely turns out to help relieve the symptoms, and hence the suffering, of schizophrenia it will be a remarkable clinical advance.

But it is being promoted on the false and dangerous premise that all existing drug treatments for the devastating condition have severe side effects. Older drugs do have side effects but newer ones cause far fewer problems.

The worry expressed by psychiatrists is that hopes are being raised among patients about fish oil before the evidence is in. The fish oil story has been energetically promoted on the Internet by excited patients and to the media by

Scotia Pharmaceuticals, the drug company which has funded trials in Aberdeen.

Professor Rob Kerwin, of the Institute of Psychiatry, is one who remains unconvinced. He says more and better evidence is required and fears that patients who are already reluctant to take drugs which are effective may be further deterred from using them.

The risk of suicide is high in schizophrenia and the danger of deterring patients from taking their correct treatment is serious.

New anti-psychotic drugs which have come on to the market in the last

decade and have fewer side effects are only being taken by one in four of those who could benefit from them, he says.

"Suicide rates can now be dramatically reduced by novel anti-psychotics. We think they are very important."

The message to patients is that experimenting with fish oil is unlikely to expose them to any harm. But they should not, on any account, discontinue their current treatment without medical advice.

- Jeremy Lawrence
Health Editor

PMT? OSTEOPOROSIS? MENOPAUSE?

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Professor Donald Cardwell

BEFORE the Second World War, few scholars knew how to incorporate science, technology and medicine within social, political or economic history. Nowadays many historians know the methods: university courses, books and (some) museums manifest their skills. For the greats of science, and for many lesser figures and groups, we are able to relate scientific works to lives, contexts and audiences, with an analytical sophistication matching the best of current intellectual and cultural history.

This progress in historiography owes much to the intellectual and institutional bases built in the 1950s and 1960s, not least in the universities of northern England. Among these pioneers, Donald Cardwell was a perspicacious and persistent innovator, especially in Manchester, where he helped develop both a school of historians and a marvellous museum of science and industry.

From 1964, Cardwell made his academic home at the University of Manchester Institute for Science and Technology (Umist). He was at his best in the History of Science common room, holding forth on science, technology and the industrial revolution, mixing acute analysis with the whimsical excursions which also revealed his deep sense of period and place. He adopted Manchester, though he was born in Gibraltar, the son of a civil servant from Croydon, in Surrey, and was educated at Plymouth College and at King's College London, where he gained a First in Physics in 1959.

Shortly afterwards he joined the Admiralty Signals Establishment, serving in Scotland, West Africa and the Middle East during the Second World War. Back at King's from 1946, he applied his knowledge of radar in a PhD on detecting distant thunderstorms. He worked with Bill Seeds, John Randall and Maurice Wilkins in a physics department then moving from war-time concerns to biophysics; Cardwell moved further - into historical and social studies.

He attended history of science courses at University College London, and Morris Ginsberg's sociology seminars at the London School of Economics, where he met his future wife, Olive. And he gained a Nutfield grant for the historical research that became his first book - *The Organisation of Science in England* (1957).

For two years, c1955-56, he worked at Keele University

with the economist Bruce Williams. After almost a decade of short-term employment he was rescued by the philosopher Stephen Toulmin, who invited him to join the History and Philosophy of Science group at Leeds University. There he met Jerry Ravetz, who shared his interests in science-technology relations, and began the work on the history of "energy" that he would continue at Umist.

In 1963 he was invited to Umist by the Principal, Vivian Bowden. The technological universities were expanding, and in Manchester, as at Imperial College, London, history of science was to provide a "liberal" element in the education of engineers. But Bowden wanted more - the classic industrial city needed a Museum of Science and Industry.

At Umist, Cardwell surrounded himself with scientists who had turned to history - Arnold Pacey and the chemist Wilfred Farrar were already on the staff of the Institute. Like Cardwell, they were unassuming but learned and original; they scoffed at fashions in historiography, but they already understood the principles that



Cardwell: period and place

dominate the profession now - that history of science must be concerned with practice as well as theory, that local studies are enormously useful in exploring the interplay of content and context, and that we do well not to divide the histories of science, technology and medicine from each other, or from economic and social history.

These were key themes in the Northern seminar which in the late 1960s linked Umist with Leeds, Lancaster and Bradford and also included Charles Webster, Charles Schmitt, Piyo Rattansi, Ted McGuire, Maurice Crossland, Jack Morrell and Robert Fox. The lessons spread - not through manifestos, but by example and through a tradition of warm encouragement to younger scholars.

Cardwell was shy of conferences, and in later years he rarely lectured outside Manchester. His international influence came mainly through his books - his insightful general works (most recently *The Fontana History of Technology*, published in 1994), his edited volumes on John Dalton and on the history of Umist, *John Dalton and the Progress of Science* (1968) and *Artisan and Graduate* (1974), and *James Joule: a biography* (1989), about the Manchester brewer who measured the mechanical equivalent of heat.

Cardwell's books were used by the Open University and did much to advance the history of science in Britain, but his literary achievements were perhaps best recognised in the United States, where history of technology had also become a professional discipline.

Like the Mancunians he studied, Cardwell concerned himself with the life of the city. He helped maintain the traditions of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, but his best institutional legacy is the Museum of Science and Industry, opened in 1969, for which he laid the groundwork and recruited Richard Hills, first as a research student and then as museum director. Together they put together a very fine collection, first housed in the Oddfellows Hall between Umist and Manchester University; Cardwell also helped establish the national fund for the preservation of industrial and scientific heritage.

Around the time of Cardwell's retirement from Umist in 1984, the Manchester collections moved to Castlefield, to the site of the world's first railway station. There the museum's growth has been so spectacular, and its brief is now so large, that it is rarely thought of as a "university" foundation. That almost seems fitting. It is a working monument to a historian of practical men, a contribution to Manchester from a lively scholar who taught us to see in the microcosm of the industrial city the creative interweavings of scientific, technical and civic concerns.

John Pickstone

Donald Stephen Lowell Cardwell, historian of science and technology; born Gibraltar 4 August 1919; Reader in the History of Science and Technology, University of Manchester; Institute of Science and Technology (Umist) 1963-73; Professor 1974-84 (Emeritus); married 1953 Olive Humphrey (one son, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Macclesfield, Cheshire 8 May 1998.



Connolly created haute couture with an Irish flavour

Sybil Connolly

SYBIL CONNOLLY was the most successful dress designer Ireland has known. She saw the point of simple native clothes, such as the red flannel petticoat and crocheted blouses, and made them into haute couture with an Irish flavour.

Elegant and wearable, they proved a satisfactory investment, neither dating nor changing from year to year. Connolly always went for beauty and style as opposed to "mere" fashion.

When the hemline went above the knee in the Sixties, Nancy Mitford remarked that people of her age had to choose between looking dowdy or ridiculous "and of course I shall plump for the latter". But "the great Irish couturière Sybil Connolly", as Nancy called Sybil, was wisely slow to respond to the dictates of fashion.

One of her best creations was pleated linen, which had the look of the undergrowth of a mushroom. It took nine yards of fine pleating to make one yard of fabric, so dresses made from it were heavy - but so simple and so lovely. Jacqueline Kennedy was wearing one in the official portrait of her in the White House.

Sybil Connolly was born in Swansea to a Welsh mother and an Irish father; they moved to Waterford where she was educated at a convent school run by the Sisters of Mercy. After an apprenticeship in London at Bradleys the dressmakers, the war came and, at the age of 17, she moved to Dublin.

There she joined the firm of Richard Alan, named after its owner Jack Clarke's two small sons. When she was only 22 he made her a director. She soon set up her own establishment and held her first major show in 1953 at Dunsany Castle, Co Meath, thanks to Lady Dunsany's admiration for her and her creations. It was a dramatic success and she never looked back.

Connolly was a generous friend to creative people all over Ireland. In her third and last book *Irish Hands* (1994), she describes her arduous travels in search of the best Irish craftsmen, and breaks into lyrical prose.

She had a brilliant flair for publicity. When her exhibition on the 18th-century Mrs Delany's intricate paper cut-outs was held at the Morgan Library in New York there were articles in all the

glossies. Mary Delany sheets designed by Connolly dressed shop windows, and soon it seemed as if the whole of New York was talking about Delany, and of course Sybil Connolly.

When Jacqueline Kennedy visited Ireland in July 1967 Connolly was one of her few friends there, so took her under her wing. I had recently rescued Castleown, a great empty Palladian house near Dublin, from dereliction, and it was the first "stately home" to be opened to the public in the province of Leinster. Nobody came.

Connolly realised how much a visit by Mrs Kennedy would help the uphill task, and the Irish Georgian Society, and brought her to my house for lunch. But when we went to Castleown Connolly would not come. She felt it was my project and did not want to steal my thunder. This was typical of her kindness and self-effacing thoughtfulness. She was a wonderful hostess, a great perfectionist, and full of fun besides.

Desmond Guinness

Sybil Veronica Connolly, dress designer; born Swansea 24 January 1921; died Dublin 6 May 1998.

Tom Iremonger

ON 27 APRIL 1966, the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, announced to the House of Commons that the Amory Committee, set up to study and make recommendations about the penal system, could not continue its work. Seething with anger, Tom Iremonger asked the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, to name the six members of the Royal Commission on the Penal System who initially resigned, the two who resigned subsequently and the eight who wished to continue. He was incandescent with fury.

Jenkins told Iremonger that Lady Adrian, Dr T.C.N. Gibbons, the Bishop of Exeter, the criminologist Professor Sir Leon Radzinowicz, Mrs Beatrice Serota (later Lady Serota, Health Minister) and Lady Wootton of Abinger had tendered their resignations. Subsequently the Honourable Sylvia Fletcher-Moulton and Mrs Elliott Warburton also resigned. The eight who remained were Lord Amory himself, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, the trade union leader David Bessent, Mr Justice Edmund Davies, R.E. Millard, the surgeon Professor J.M. Morris, Sam Silkin QC (later Attorney General), Lord Wheatley of the Scottish Appeal Court and Tom Iremonger himself.

Partly because his ally Lord Wheatley was my father-in-law, Iremonger poured out his heart to me, saying that he believed that the ending of this Royal Commission was an insult to the British electorate who were deeply concerned about mounting crime.

Iremonger told me that Lloyd George had once explained to his Chief of the Imperial General Staff that he had no pretensions to being a military expert; he was, he said, an expert in understanding what the ordinary man in the street felt about the war. He spoke as a politician, and the function of a politician was not to be an expert; it was to see and understand the work of the experts with the eyes and mind of the ordinary people he represented.

Iremonger said that Sir Alec Douglas-Home and his Cabinet had been quite right to accede to the entreaties of people like himself to set up the Amory Commission in April 1964. People in his constituency in Essex and elsewhere were beginning to fear for their own safety. They felt their protectors had turned their hearts from them and their minds from the job of protecting them. It was Iremonger's view that most of his electors suspected that those responsible for the penal system were more concerned for the criminal than for his victim.

His particular fury was directed against the distinguished Cambridge criminologist Professor Sir Leon Radzinowicz whom he believed to be the ringleader of the dissenters. Didn't people realise that in the years from 1958 to 1964, the number of boys found guilty of indictable offences had risen from just under 32,000 to just over 52,000 - a rise of nearly 60 per cent? Iremonger saw this as a huge swelling of the potential evil in our society.

His interest started when he was elected a member of parliament. Over the next 20 years, as a result of constituency complaints, he gained increasing expertise in one of the least popular political subjects, endlessly visiting prisons and gaining the respect of the House of Commons.

He was the first and to my recollection the only MP in my first decade really to take the subject of Borstal seriously. In his book *Disturbers of the Peace* (1962), Iremonger wrote: "The village of Borstal lies just south of Rochester. Here, early in this present century Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise and his prison commissioners established, in the old Rochester jail, overlooking the Valley of the Medway and the Weald of Kent beyond, the 'first' Borstal."

Borstal training became, and is now firmly established as, the principle weapon for protecting the public against the depredations of the young delinquent - or "lad". What struck me most forcibly was on my first contact with the Borstal training system was the discovery that the "young thugs" whose vicious behav-

iour and defiant attitudes are reported in the newspapers and understandably fill my constituents with anger, indignation and the desire to see in punishment meted out to them, were in fact, as I think, in this metamorphosis we come straight away, as we step to the postern in the precincts of the closed Borstal, to the heart of the matter. The tight-fisted, hulking bully with sideburns, inflicting pain on the elderly lady in the sweet shop, evading richly deserved lynching at the hands of rigorously winging citizenry, appearing in court under the aegis of a sentimental probation officer, to whom he cynically tells a tale of emotional disturbance in childhood, being sentenced, on the advice of a psychiatrist with perverted standards of right and wrong, by a soft-centred Bench to a Borstal of which he is rightly contemptuous - just a lad."

That was the picture for Iremonger. And yet he really gave his mind - and many thoughtful speeches to the House of Commons - to the vexed problem of the psychopath, and the treatments of this type of disturber of society offered under the 1959 Mental Health Act.

Tom Iremonger was born into a Royal Marine artillery family. His father, Colonel Iremonger DSO, had served at Jutland in the First World War in the battle ship *Vulcan*; hence Tom's middle name.

In 1938, after school at King's College, Canterbury and Oriel College, Oxford, Iremonger joined the Colonial Administrative Service, volunteering to go to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands partly because of his love of sailing. He took with him his young bride Lucille who later in a charming book, *It's a Bigger Life* (1948), described the Western Pacific idyll before the Japanese invasion of the Second World War and greedy post-war mining. "In it she strikes the laughter-and-tears note which was to characterise later autobiographical



Iremonger: 'disturbers of the peace'

writings," Iremonger wrote in his affectionate obituary of his wife for the *Independent* in 1989.

Iremonger would later state that nothing worried him because he was living on borrowed time. What he meant was that thanks to accompanying his wife to Fiji to convalesce after an illness, he had escaped the fate of many of his friends in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, who had their heads cut off by the Japanese.

After the war he returned to Britain and joined the RNVF for several years. Following the appointment of G.C. Hutchinson as Chairman of the National Assistance Board he got the chance to fight a by-election in the Ilford North constituency in February 1954. Soon after being elected he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to a kindred adventurous spirit Sir Fitzroy Maclean, who was at that time Under-Secretary of State for War.

Having held Ilford North in 1974 at the first election in February by 285 votes, at the second he lost to Mrs Millie Miller by 778 votes. He made the great mistake of standing as an Independent Conservative in March 1978 when Vivian Bendall, the official Conservative candidate, won with 22,548 votes, Iremonger coming fifth after the National Front with a miserable 671 votes.

Tam Dalyell

Thomas Lascelles Isa Shandon Vallant Iremonger, colonial officer and politician; born London 14 March 1916; MP (Conservative) for Ilford North 1954-74; married 1939 Lucille D'Oyen Parks (died 1989; one daughter); died Malmesbury, Wiltshire 13 May 1998.

Alberto Sartoris

THE ARCHITECT Alberto Sartoris believed that modern architecture must be based on a renunciation of useless and superfluous elements, a respect for true tradition, an harmonious distribution of line and colour, a rhythmic mastery of contrast and assurance, and the investigation of a specific style.

Sartoris's own drawings explore this abstract language of colours, planes, transparencies, and volumetric interplays of solid and void, all at the pure state and represented as aggressively Cubist buildings that float in a void, divorced from any context, using a graphic technique - the axonometric projection - to depict everything at true size without the distortions of perspective and creating the impression of weightless objects suspended in space.

Even when reproduced upside down by mistake, these celebrated axonometrics are among the most enduring images in the history of architecture.

Because of his aristocratic aloofness Sartoris was to build very little. His real vocation was as the ideologue and publicist for the idea of an assertive and

uncompromising modernity, and his drawings are a polemic which reserve the right of a deliberately arcane architecture not to endanger itself by courting an easy acceptance.

The value of maintaining this critical, confrontational stance (completely misunderstood by some of today's ersatz modernists) came from his mentor Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, the founder of Futurism, and was shared by contemporaries and friends such as Le Corbusier.

Born in Turin and uprooted to Switzerland when only six years old, Sartoris experienced the condition of exile more intensely than most. His Swiss technical education gave him natural affinities with Le Corbusier whilst *nostalgia d'Italie* led him to seek out Marinetti in Paris and to return to his native Turin as soon as he had grown up; but it was too late, he had acquired a world-view that made it impossible to fit in.

The Jewish private theatre he designed for the rich art patron Riccardo Guaglio in Turin in 1923-25 was never credited to him because, as he knew, Guaglio's bossy wife did not care for his "excessive" independence and even though for 20 years he

remained a major figure wherever the new architecture manifested itself - in Italy, France, Switzerland, South America - he was never fully accepted into any of its movements. Even today some historians are still trying to fit him in somewhere, unable to perceive that what really matters is his marginality.

Forced *malgré soi* to be independent, Sartoris was able to see beyond the interminable factionalism of the Italian modern movement, travelling widely and cultivating an international network of friendships.

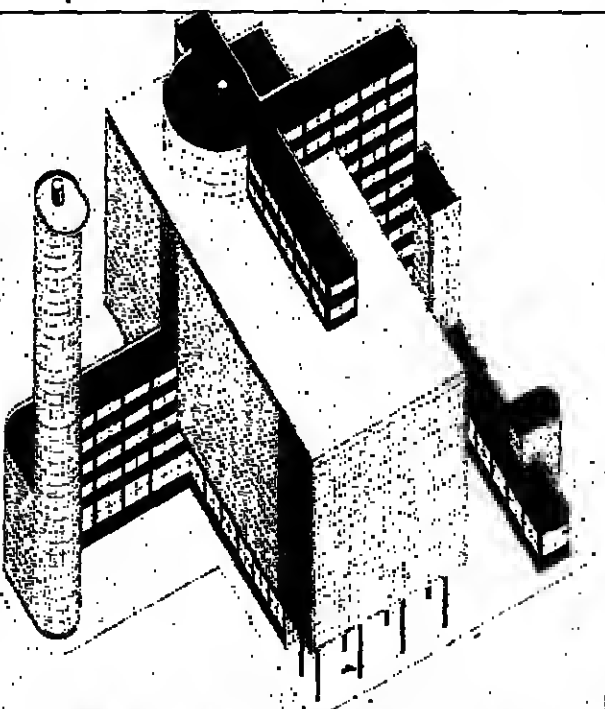
In 1931 he published his widely influential *Gli Elementi dell'Architettura Funzionale* - a compilation of examples that showed the new style active everywhere from Romania to Argentina. His inclusion of Pierre Chareau's *Maison de Verre* - barely completed - made that unlikely Parisian decorator into a lasting cult figure of the international Modern Movement and some time afterwards the Americans Henry Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson appropriated the contents of his book, repackaging it as their own invention: "The International Style".

For Sartoris the entire, the

prime purpose of modernism must be to rediscover and purify ancient, universal principles of beauty. The architect is a sorcerer who celebrates arcane rituals; using mysterious procedures he conjures up lines, planes, solids, and spaces wherein meanings, and relationships between meanings, are evoked and given form.

The total abstraction of Mondrian and Rietveld corresponded to something in this uprooted, *heimatlos* condition and from the early 1920s he was exchanging letters with Theo Van Doesburg, leader of the Dutch De Stijl movement; speaking in French and restlessly seeking friends everywhere, neither a Swiss nor an Italian. Sartoris was the first truly European modernist.

His initiation into Futurism took place in 1928 and in that year his drawings had pride of place in the first Exhibition of Futurist Architecture. The closeness to Marinetti gave him the Futurist aggressiveness that fired him up whilst at the same time, unable to belong exclusively even to that powerful cultural movement, he was also a member of MIAR (*Movimento Italiano per l'Architettura Razionale*).



A drawing by Sartoris of Notre-Dame du Phare, 1931

After Mussolini's introduction of the nefarious race laws, Sartoris with his friend Giuseppe Terragni never really recovered from some awkward attempts to defend modernist architecture from accusations of being a "decadent Jewish" phenomenon. After the Second World War he left Turin and returned to live quietly in Lausanne. His contribution, which still remains to be understood, marks him out as one of the most decisive influences of modernism.

Thomas Muirhead

Alberto Sartoris, architect, critic, journalist and draughtsman; born Turin 2 February 1901; married 1922 Zoe Gonanna (marriage dissolved 1929); 1943 Carlo Prina; died Pompey (Vaud), Switzerland 8 March 1998.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned to 071-733 2072 (24-hour answering machine 071-251 2011) or faxed to 071-251 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (Notice of Funerals, Farewell notices, Birthdays, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays
Mr James Arness, actor, 75; Miss Helena Bonham-Carter, actress, 32; Miss Zola Budd, athlete, 32; Mr Jeremy Corbyn MP, 49; Mr Jim Dobbin MP, 57; Mr Roy Dotrice, actor, 73; Sir David English, editor-in-chief and chairman, Associated Newspapers, 67; Sir Peter Fry, former MP, 67; Mr Howard Goodall, composer, 40; Mr Judith Goodland, Headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 60; Sir Douglas Hardie, chairman, Edward Parker & Co, 75; Sir Kenneth Jones, former High

Court judge, 77; Sir Patrick Kingsley, former Keeper of the Records, 77; Lord News and Media, and Express Newspapers, 62; Wing Cdr Sir Kenneth Stoddart, former Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, 84; Air Marshal Sir John Walker, 62; Mr Roger Westbrook, ambassador to Portugal, 57.

Anniversaries

Births: Charles, Duc d'Orleans, poet, 1391; John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, military com-

mander, 1650; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, writer, 1689; Edmund Louis-Antoine Huet de Goncourt, novelist, 1822; Al Johnson (Asa Yoelson), singer and entertainer, 1896; John Wayne (Marion Michael Morrison), actor and playwright, 1907; Robert Murray, football manager, 1909; Deaths: St Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 430; Samuel Pepys, diarist, 1703; Jacques Laffitte, banker and politician, 1844. On this day: Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned King of Italy, in Milan Cathedral, 1805; the wild boy Kaspar Hauser was discovered in the market-place of Nuremberg, 1828; the Confederate Army surrendered in Vicksburg, ending the American Civil War, 1863; Mount Etna in Sicily started a series of violent eruptions, 1870; Vauxhall Bridge, London, was opened, 1906; in South Africa, a Nationalist government was elected with apartheid policies, 1948. Today is the Feast Day of St Dylan, St Lambert of Venice, St Mariana of Quito, St Philip Neri, St Priscus or Pricus of Auxerre and St Quadratus of Athens.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Golden Ages (iv): Spain in the 17th century", 1pm.
British Museum: George Hart, "Archaeology in Egypt: royal cemeteries at Abydos", 11.30am.
National Portrait Gallery: Christine Riding, "The English 18th-century Conversation Piece", 1.10pm.
Wellcome Collection, London W1: Robert Whitley, "Sculpture: bronzes, Giambologna and his followers", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh receive the Emperor and Empress of Japan on a state visit. The Princess Royal opens the restored Museum No 1 at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Surrey.
Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 4pm. The British Coldstream Guards mount the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 4pm.
The LAW REPORT resumes with the Law Term, on Tuesday 2 June.

THE INDEPENDENT

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Arms and the rhetoric of ethics

IN A WORLD free of hypocrisy and the pretence that there are onco-for-all standards of good conduct among nations, makers of munitions would get on with it. If producing tanks, helicopters and submarines is legal according to British law, then free trade should prevail and all corners get served. If - to take an example from our pages today - Thames Water can freely sell pipes to the Indonesians, thus implicitly supporting the regime in that country, why shouldn't Vickers be given the same right? The answer, according to successive British governments, is that arms are too useful as a diplomatic bargaining tool; that sales can come back to haunt you (or kill your soldiers); that governments must occasionally pretend there are timeless international standards of conduct which forbid sales to regimes temporarily designated as pariahs. In the real world arms sales are decided *ad hoc* amid a confused flurry of motives and reasoning. It will probably always be so.

But here comes the Foreign Secretary spouting ethics. Unlike pipes, financial services or designer clothes, the sale of arms should be restricted to states he deems worthy. If the great rhetorician had, last summer, simply said that he would humbly try to increase the volume of human rights principle in British government decisions on arms sales, but that in a complicated and changing world he could guarantee nothing, we would have applauded a brave and realistic statesman. Instead, we got unrealistic high-flown sentiment.

And still he is at it. Yesterday Robin Cook secured a useful agreement with fellow members of the European Union against undercutting in the arms business - the promise is that the French or Italians will not come along to sweep up contracts which the British government has forbidden British firms to undertake. It is an agreement in restraint of trade. But a realist would say: "Fine, it does imply there will be some consistent, albeit minimal, application of human rights doctrine to non-EU countries and in turn that might lead to the growth of common positions in EU foreign policy."

But instead of identifying a small step forward, Mr Cook once again made exaggerated claims. We now possess, he seemed to say, a new, reliable, European tool with which to judge other countries' moral fitness to acquire the means to kill. Do we really? Tomorrow the President of the Board of Trade opens what amounts to an arms bazaar for South Africa. Credits are being extended, colourful tents put up - figuratively - to display gleaming machines for destruction. Ah, we will say, this is ethical because under President Mandela South Africa wears the colours of sweetness and light. Presumably, under the new European accord, it is not for the French or Swedes to ask whether some of those weapons might ever be used for domestic repression, nor indeed what enemies they are supposed to deter, South Africa being situated in a region at peace. But, they might, and perhaps they should.

PoWs cannot forget, but we must forgive

THE EMPEROR of Japan is the titular head of a great and friendly nation. We welcome its investment and its visitors; we buy its products and sell what we can; we prize its contribution to regional stability. Common diplomatic courtesy, not to speak of self-interest, dictates that Emperor Akihito is accorded a dignified welcome on the streets of London today. Part of the "packaging" of this visit is the investiture of the Emperor in the Order of the Garter. That decision was taken some time ago; it was the right decision.

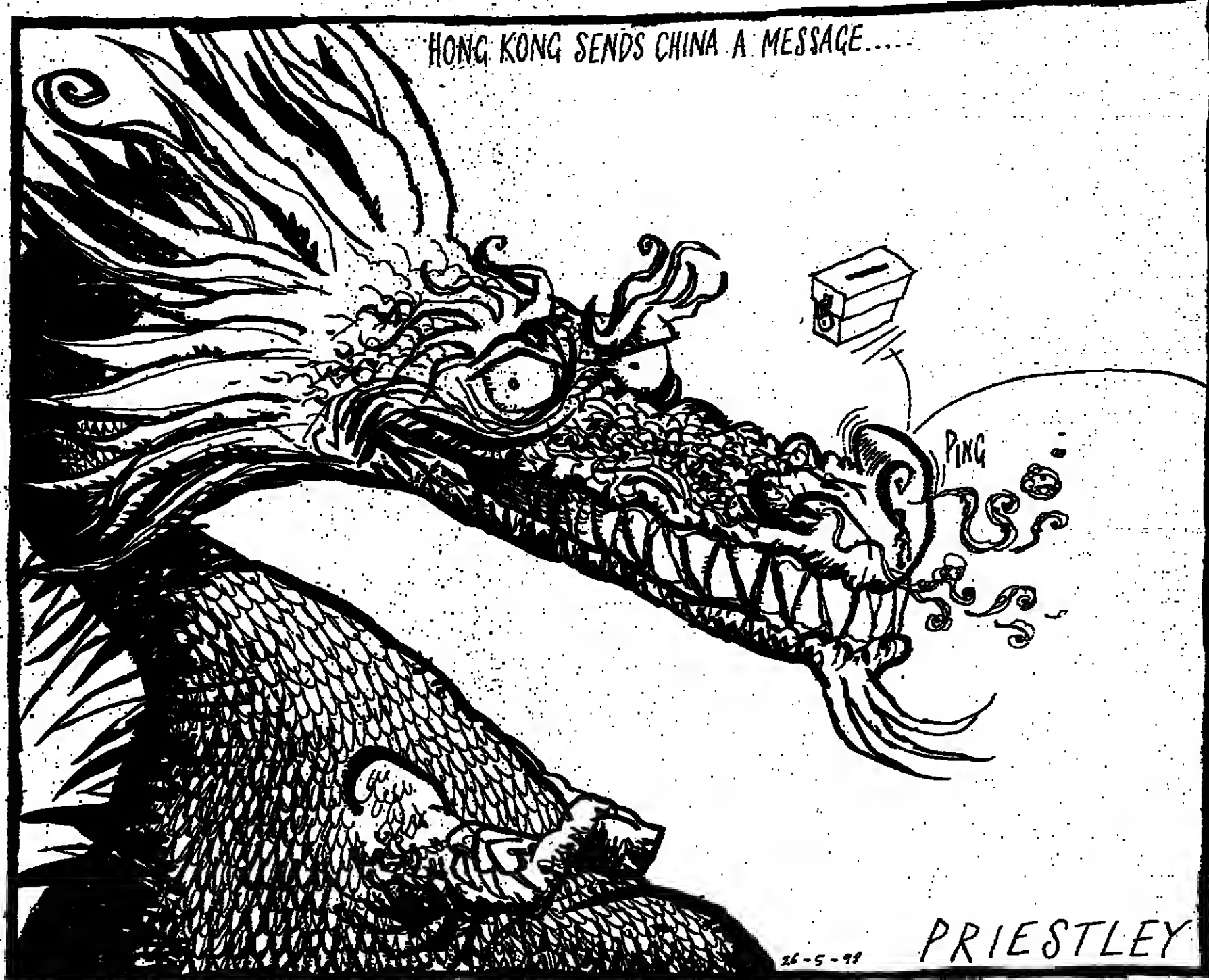
Does that imply criticism of former prisoners of war who choose to protest? It is true that the real object of their anger is the British government - all those administrations which since the early Fifties have refused to reopen the postwar settlement with Japan. Historical responsibility, if it lies anywhere, rests with the Emperor's father, Hirohito, and which son justly answers for his father's offence? Yet who dare reprimand those who suffered so fearfully in the Far East during the Second World War?

We do however need to observe that we live in an age of selective amnesia. The Irish potato famine in the 1840s - an "accident" if ever there was one - is deemed worthy of prime ministerial apology, but not the contemporaneous bombardment of Chinese cities to open them to the opium trade. A child who murdered children is hounded but an adult "terrorist" who murdered children is lionised. Any suspicion of relativising the Holocaust invites the fiercest condemnation, as if that event were the touchstone for all historical judgement of evil-doing. Perhaps it is, but who sits in Solomon's seat claiming to be able to judge?

The victims of Japanese brutality in the camps cannot forgive or forget; to them Japanese expressions of regret are deeply inadequate. But for the rest of us, time and crime have moved on.

The British are back

THE BRITISH are coming! Colin Welland's prediction, made on Oscar night in Hollywood, never came to pass. David Puttnam - and others - retired hurt. Now the British have come again: there has been a renaissance in the British film industry and results at the end of the Cannes Film Festival prove it. What we need to do, however, is define "industry" carefully. Actors born and trained in Britain; films produced in Britain with international (American) finance; directors old and new who can work in Hollywood but do not have to... it has lately again shown signs of approaching critical mass. There is still a huge problem in getting British-made films marketed and distributed anywhere near the mass audiences who bring in the money, but British film culture looks - in the international mirror held up at Cannes - to be fighting fit.



Embassy let us down

Sir: I returned from Jakarta several days ago amid the rush of expatriates frantically trying to leave the violent and deeply troubled city. Being British was a severe hindrance in trying to escape because, for some unexplainable reason, our embassy refused to accept that there was a significant problem. Right up until the point at which I left, the advice from the embassy was "Stay at home". Amongst my expatriate friends and colleagues this became a laughing matter as the Indonesian crisis steadily deteriorated. The joke was that the Brits had been told by their embassy to stay at home and have a cup of tea.

When the Americans decided to evacuate their nationals, the British embassy's advice was still to stay at home and drink tea. That was of no comfort at all to British people stranded amidst the horrors of Jakarta.

I eventually made my exit in the dead of night helped by New Zealand and American friends who chartered an aircraft with the aid of a multinational company to airlift us to Singapore. When I arrived in Singapore the feeling of relief was overwhelming. By this time the British embassy had changed its advice to, "Leave the country if you feel that it is safe to do so," or words to that effect. The problem, of course, was that by that time it was not safe to do so!

I hope the British ambassador might learn from this fiasco and perhaps in future try to be just a little helpful to concerned Brits under his jurisdiction.

Professor IAN SHAW
Hambleton, Lancashire

Sir: Your report (23 May) that the Centre for Security Studies at Hull University has become involved in providing courses for senior Indonesian military officers is deeply disturbing. Is this really the sort of relationship we want with a country which is just emerging from three decades of brutal dictatorship and is now struggling towards a more democratic future?

The fact that the training involves

officers close to the now sidelined ex-Special Forces (Kopassus) and ex-Strategic Army Reserve commander, Lieutenant-General Prabowo Subianto is especially disturbing. Both in East Timor (where Kopassus operations have been marked by gross human rights abuses), and in Jakarta, when forces under Prabowo's command crushed the pro-democracy movement in July 1996, and only last week appear to have attempted a putsch outside the presidential palace, the Special Forces have been used in irregular and ruthless ways which have claimed civilian lives.

In November 1996, the National Audit Office report on aid to Indonesia underscored just how sensitive such training for the Indonesian armed forces can be. Between 1983 and 1987, some 350 Indonesian police officers (the police being part of the armed forces in Indonesia) received training in the UK from Bramhill Police College; but the college's formal involvement was eventually scaled down after the Home Office expressed concern at "reports of civilian killings in Indonesia and the risk that British-trained Indonesian policemen might later commit atrocities". Clearly, the Centre for Security Studies at Hull is less squeamish.

Dr PETER CAREY
Fellow and Tutor in Modern History
Trinity College, Oxford

Biotech patents

Sir: Rather than blurring the lines between invention and discovery, as Norman Baker MP suggests (Genetic Patents letters, 15 May), the new directive on European biotech patents, recently approved by the European Parliament, gives Europe a clearly defined structure for decisions on patents. The directive does not "give the go-ahead for yet more experiments" in animals (or

any other type of research). Permission to conduct animal research is regulated in the UK by the Home Office. The directive does have a number of areas specifically excluded from patentability, including use of animals which cause suffering without substantial medical benefit.

Mr Baker says: "Now is the time to have a wider debate on genetic engineering." The European Union, the Commission, MEPs and many of its member citizens have been discussing this subject in the context of the draft directive for more than ten years. One of the outcomes of his debate is that the directive includes the provision for an ethical oversight process that will consider ethical issues raised by all aspects of biotechnology. Furthermore, John Battle MP, Minister for Science, has recently initiated an extensive public consultation process into the new biotechnologies.

The development of modern diagnostics and medicines relies heavily on biotechnology. Without adequate patent protection, the investment and the 12 years it usually takes to develop a new medicine would be impossible to imagine. Patients now have good reason to hope that biotechnology can fulfil its promise to provide new and better medical treatments.

Dr JEFF KIPLING
Director, Science and Technology
The Association of the British
Pharmaceutical Industry
London SW1

Sir: A patent for an invention gives the patent holder a monopoly commercially to exploit his invention for a limited period. A patent does not confer ownership of any physical article, whether human tissue or otherwise. To obtain a patent the inventor has to disclose the details of how to perform his invention. These details are subsequently published and are

available at the end of the patent term for anyone to use.

The rationale for a patent system is, and always has been, that availability of limited-length monopolies encourages not only innovation but also the disclosure of innovation. The deal between state and inventor is that the limited monopoly is given in return for a contribution of some value to the stock of published technical information. That information can be used by anyone without payment of any fee for "experimental purposes relating to the subject matter of the invention" during the term of the patent, and for all purposes including commercial exploitation at the end of the term.

A patent system based on this rationale has existed in this country for more than four centuries. Where would we be now without it? Modern medicine would be very different indeed.

JAMES MARSHALL
London EC4

World Cup whingers

Sir: The World Cup will be starting shortly, and you will get the usual moans about too much football on television, so I should like to retaliate first.

Soaps: *Brookside* three times a week, *EastEnders* three times a week, *Coronation Street* three times a week. *Neighbours* every night, *Home and Away* every night. I don't watch any so they should all be taken off the air. (My opinion matters more than the millions who watch these shows.)

Dramas: Sorry, social history was boring enough at school; I do not want to see it on the box.

Quizzes and game shows: Yuck! Take them all off.

Lots more football and motor-cycling racing please.

Mrs S A JEPPI
Norwich

Army's PR professionals

Sir: Civilians who have lived within the pub-crawling range of barracks can make their own judgement about who is living in the real world, Brigadier R D S Gordon (letter, 22 May) or your leader-writer (20 May).

Just one tiny caveat, however. The Brigadier says the Army is "this country's most professional and disciplined organisation". No doubt the Army's Director of Public Relations weighs his words, and knows exactly what he is talking about. But exactly how unprofessional and ill-disciplined are the police, nurses, teachers, firefighters, paramedics, care-workers, the Navy and the Air Force, compared with the Brigadier's almost, but (as he admits) not wholly immaculate Army? We would love to be told.

Dr MICHAEL HALLS
Christon,
Devon

Unsafe convictions

Sir: Your leading article (21 May) on the nurses convicted of murder in Saudi Arabia entirely misses the point. Over four hundred years ago Michel de Montaigne pointed out that it is always unsafe to convict persons of serious crimes on confessional evidence - especially when that evidence is uncorroborated. That even the latest series of miscarriages of justice in this country does not seem to have convinced the judiciary of this obvious fact is, I fear, only to be expected.

Dr MAX GAUNA
Reader in French Studies
Sheffield University

Adrian who?

Sir: Your spiel about the Allen Ginsberg do (20 May) calls me a "scouser". Nah. Liverpool's well wicked, specially the Beatles and the Anfield mob, but I was born within pissing range of Hampstead Heath. You're thinking of my old mucker Adrian Henri. Sorted?

ADRIAN MITCHELL
London NW5

Truth or lies? Or is it all just news to you? Here is the quiz that reveals all



MILES KINGSTON

HOW WELL do you follow the news? Quite well? Very well? So well that you could actually answer quiz questions about it? Well, that's just what's going to happen now, so put your money where your mouth is, stranger!

What I'm going to do here and now is bring you six news stories dating from the last week.

One of them is untrue.

Yes, all you have to do is spot an untrue news story. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Think you can do it? Let's go!

Here are the six stories.

1. Robin Cook is very worried by the failure of his "ethical" foreign policy in Indonesia, i.e. by the use of British tanks and arms against the students in Jakarta. It is a bit late to get the repressive arms back again, so Mr Cook has sent out a secret envoy to discuss a multi-million deal

whereby arms will be sold, on unlimited credit, to the students.

2. The one person who has come out of the Northern Ireland situation unblemished is Senator Mitchell. Trusted by all sides, seen by all as a man who will listen endlessly and not do any propagandising himself, he is accepted by everyone as a man who is above sectarianism. It now turns out that this was for a reason which had nothing to do with his personal qualities; it was because he found the Northern Ireland accents of all concerned absolutely impenetrable, and has barely understood a single word addressed to him since he arrived in the province. This, and this alone, explains his aura of godlike detachment. A man who cannot understand what is said to him will never be upset or angered by it.

3. One of the resignations at the beleaguered Arts Council which has gone unpublicised is that of the chairman of the

Wine Advisory Panel, Mr Ralph Pepler. It was Mr Pepler's job to advise on the wine supplies for all launch parties, first nights, private views, receptions, Arts Council lunches etc. Not only did he advise on wine policy but he controlled a considerable budget, with over £50,000 worth of wine passing through his hands every month. Now he has resigned in protest against Mr Gerry Robinson's policies, but that is not all - all the wine he currently controls has vanished as well. Police are urgently looking for a quiet, bespectacled man of about fifty with a small beard and a huge white van marked "Arts Council Wines on the Move". They caution the public to be careful if they spot him. "This man is dangerously affable, and can drink anyone under the table," they warn.

4. If Mr Blair speaks French as well as he seems to, he will no doubt know that his name has an odd meaning in French.

Yes, the French do have a word *blair* in their language. It is the slang word for "nose", or as we would say, "hoooter" or "conk". "Je l'ai dans le blair" means "I have him in my nose" or, as we would say, "he gets up my nose". "Blairer", the verb, means to sniff, to smell and also to smell badly. "Je ne peux pas le blairer" means "I can't stand him". "Cela blaire" means "That smells a bit off" or "That doesn't half pong". So "Tony Blair" to French ears means "Tony stinks". That is why the French nickname for our Prime Minister is "Smelly".

5. The untold story about the release of the two British nurses from a Saudi prison is that they were given a pardon by the Saudi authorities on condition that the Saudi Arabian football team were to be allowed to get away without being defeated by England at Wembley at the weekend. The Saudi Arabian team also proposed a deal whereby, if England did happen to

win, all charges against Jonathan Aitken would have to be dropped, but Glenn Hodder would not countenance this.

6. The report last week that Christie's, the Bond Street auctioneers, has been sold to a French firm for £721m was somewhat premature. On examination, the French firm discovered that what they had been sold was not the real Christie's at all, but a rather crude fake company which bore the same name. A spokesman for the delighted real Christie's said: "You'd be surprised how often we get foreign people to hand over millions of pounds for a load of old tosh, and what a kick we get out of it. And I think we've done it again! Get the champagne out!"

That's it. Those are the six news stories. As I said, one of them is untrue. What I didn't tell you is that the other five are untrue as well. Well, that's news reporting for you ...

Local art little rea



ROSIE MILLARD

Alternative



SARA MAITLAND

MY CHILDREN have names... names we got from them with... out their own names that di... ch or unfairly, and them to... onium with their parents'... lion. Neither of my children... is their own choice, use their... own first names actually.

Girl power

UNTIL yesterday, thousands of... but the man himself remains... tough enigmatic. Then I saw... women students from St. Lu... School St Andrews were gran... interview with Mandela. Could h... imagined that the result would... foot, chilling X-ray of his wa... committed to paper. Published... of the Daily Telegraph's School... paper Awards, future histori... over without Portfolio. At the... brilliant article, the studen... side: "We had heard tales... that he was a 'lovely man'. Neit... system seems entirely accurate... of the mouths of babes...

كلنا من الاصل

Local arts festivals give us little reason to be festive



ROSIE MILLARD

SO, the Brighton Festival is over. And I missed it. I was not one of 150,000 visitors enjoying the second largest street theatre bonanza in the country. But I was to have let this one-off opportunity to see original art slip from my diary? No, not really.

Indeed the sad fact is that I'll probably be able to catch most of the 800 events "highlighted" at Brighton during another festival somewhere else in the country this year. For despite the programmes, the lovely posters and all the flags flying along the Pavilions minarets, the Brighton Festival isn't all that special. It's simply part of the circuit.

Let's have a look at the so-called special events in the programme. Take Neil Bartlett's oratorio, *The Seven Sacraments*. After Brighton, it's moving to Southwark Cathedral, south London. The ceramics of Shoji Hamada do so at the Ditchling Museum? Off to the Ashmolean in Oxford, then Bonhams in London. As for every single stand-up, street show, busker and fire eating juggler on Brighton pier: their next stop is the Edinburgh Fringe (August). Then the Manchester Festival (October) and then if the audiences can bear it, The Pick of the Edinburgh Fringe in Looe's West End (November).

Even elements of the Brighton Festival that could be termed truly local were something of a cop-out. The combined show of Eric Gill's sculpture, Edward Johnston's calligraphy and Ethel Maier's weaving, all of whom lived in or near Ditchling, is on display at - funnily enough - nearby Ditchling. The programme organisers didn't even bother putting the triumvirate into a special show for the festival. This is a permanent exhibition. And the fabulous show from local loopy Aristo and Dali collector, the late Edward James? Sadly this just looked like coincidence, since the exhibition opened before the festival did.

Summer cultural festivals were not always this disappointingly homogeneous. In earlier days, when each town had its own producing theatre and a permanent repertory company, one could bowl around the country and see truly regional stuff. Now, most regional theatres simply play host to a legions of travelling shows engineered to hit town at festival time.

There are a few exceptions: every season at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round in Scarborough, Alan Ayckbourn writes and directs new shows using a proper resident company. But in towns where there is no resident artistic visionary, it's got to be a trifle lazy. Festival organisers appear to be simply ringing up the same impresarios and booking the same acts.

In fact, festivals across the country could save money and time on their programmes and simply produce the same literature on each of their "special" acts.

Stand-up comedy is the worst offender.

Lee Evans, Ben Elton, Sean Hughes. A bespoke show for each festival? Don't make me laugh. The festival season has been stretched so far that in the end, these performers don't actually need a home turf at all. They're merely global entertainers in a global festival.

Sure, Sean Hughes speaks winningly about the Blarney Stone, leprechauns and all things Irish. In reality he probably only touches down in the Emerald Isle when there is a festival crowd he can pick up on.

And then there's P J Harvey, singing at Edinburgh this year. An excited preview in *The Scotsman* tells us gushingly that not only is this young Polly's first appearance in Scotland for three years, but that all her other stops in 1998 are at "major European festivals". Of course they are. Would P J Harvey risk a venue out of festival-time?

It's not that I want to appear grumpy about gifted entertainers giving everyone a chance to see their shows. The trouble is that regional festivals have started to look worryingly like town centres, all of which boast the same shops. For Burtons, read Lee Evans. For Miss Selfridge, Jo Brand, and for Marks & Spencer, take any combination of any "improv" group involving Neil Mullarkey and Josie Lawrence. It's so dull it's anything but festive.

Even Slava the Russian clown, and his spectacular Snow Show, which wowed the Edinburgh Fringe, began to look just a bit unoriginal when exactly the same poster for exactly the same show was seen six months later outside the Old Vic in Waterloo.

There are some honorable exceptions. Not every festival is so unoriginal. You can't replicate a festival of chamber music in Wren churches anywhere outside London, because you can't transport Wren churches

Summer cultural festivals were not always this homogeneous

around the country. Glyndebourne has many imitators but no real competitors.

And year after year, the Edinburgh International Festival, which really has got pulling power, seems to trot out a truly original programme. One suspects its artistic integrity simply wouldn't allow it to include a show that has already done all the rounds elsewhere. So you know when you see Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Invisible City of Kitezh* performed by the Kirov Opera at Edinburgh that you are at a real ooo-oh.

Am I being snobbish? Not really, it's just there is much to be said for the excitement of making a pilgrimage to a special event. Of course, festivals are there for locals as much as anyone else; and it is jolly convenient to enjoy the spoils of something like the Fringe on your doorstep. But organisers should beware of booking quite so many duplicates. It might be cheaper at the outset, but in the long run boredom will set in.

Festivals should be peculiar to their location: bespoke events drawing visitors from across the country to experience things that can happen nowhere else. If the highlights of the Edinburgh Fringe are also the highlights of Manchester, Looe and Brighton, then why bother going?

The war ended over fifty years ago, so why can't we make peace with Japan?



JOHN CASEY

WHAT do we think of the Japanese? Do they feel remorse for the war? Will the Emperor apologise?

Let us try a different question: what must the Japanese be thinking of us? Who newspaper columnists urge the surviving POWs to turn their back on the Emperor, and whistle Colonel Bogey, and when this amiable man is described as "the son of the vilest war criminal" is it possible that the Japanese will wonder whether we are quite in our right minds?

To be anti-German is thoroughly bad form, even though the Nazi war-crimes far exceed the atrocities of the Japanese both in scale and carefully planned criminality. It seems perfectly acceptable to be instinctively hostile to Japan.

True, the exigencies of the Cold War led us to re-arm and ally ourselves with the Germans only a few years after the end of the Second World War. Yet the same is true of Japan at the time of the Korean War. The Americans needed a secure military base in Asia, and the Japanese obliged. The Americans wanted Japan to develop an export-led economy as the economic motor of Asia - and again the Japanese obliged.

The Japanese are thoroughly puzzled. The United Kingdom benefits more than any other European country from Japanese investment. There are no political conflicts between us and Japan. We have long since got over the humiliations of the fall of Singapore and Burma, and the shock - very powerful at the time - of discovering that the soldiers of a yellow race could fight as well as ours. So it all comes down to the prisoners and the apparent failure of Japan to offer a whole-hearted apology.

The former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt told the Japanese a few years ago that, unlike the Germans, they had never faced up to the War. It is certainly true that in the many conversations I have had with Japanese about the past I have rarely, if ever, found that they understand our feelings about the prisoners. The old Japanese idea that to surrender is a disgrace, and that prisoners have no rights, still seems unconsciously to influence them. The Prime Minister of Japan, Ryutaro Hashimoto, recently issued the strongest apology to date. It would obviously be right for Japan to offer full compensation.

The trouble is that the prisoners issue encourages us to be wholly self-righteous about the war. To see things from



Former POWs embrace their captors on the bridge over the River Kwai

Photograph: AP

the Japanese point of view seems unimaginable. Even now some Japanese - in their cups - will frankly admit that the worst thing about the war was that they lost. Is this shocking - a proof that Helmut Schmidt was right? Or should we - and the Americans - be as willing to re-examine our own past as we insist that the Japanese should theirs?

After the Meiji Restoration of 1868 which destroyed feudal Japan, the Japanese were determined to avoid the fate of China which was virtually colonised by the Western powers. They set out to become a modern, industrialised nation. In common with all the European powers they assumed that this entailed acquiring overseas territory to protect their supply of raw materials. They were obsessed with the idea that with hardly any natural resources they would always be at the mercy of foreign enemies. The British helped them build their fleet. We also applauded the success of plucky little Japan in defeating Russia in the war of 1904-5. To counter Chinese influence in Korea, Britain and France encouraged the Japanese to expand there.

The Japanese came to think that they had vital interests in Manchuria, and developed the fantasy that they would turn it into a "paradise on earth". They did not do that - but they greatly improved the infrastructure, building railways, as well as bringing in millions of Korean and Japanese immigrants. Japanese "special interests" in Manchuria were officially recognised by the Americans in 1915.

We should remember how much all this reflected conventional thinking. George Orwell wrote in defence of the British Empire that without overseas ter-

ritories we would become merely an impoverished island, and would all have to work very hard and live on a diet of herrings and potatoes.

The success of Japan entirely depended on free and open international trade. But after the slump of 1929, the Americans and the imperial powers erected ever higher tariff walls, which effectively excluded Japanese exports from Europe and the United States. Japan's response was to increase its trade in the Near and Far East. But quite soon Japanese exports were kept out of all the countries controlled by the western powers - i.e. the Philippines, Indo-China, Borneo, Indonesia, Malaya, Burma

It seems perfectly acceptable to be hostile to Japan

and India. Japanese emigration also became impossible, except to Brazil.

If you read accounts of debates in Japanese Cabinets in the years leading up to the Pacific War, you cannot doubt that the Japanese really did fear encirclement. This fear sometimes took lunatic forms. On the very eve of war, the appalling foreign minister in the Tojo government, Yosuke Matsuoka, revealed to the cabinet his theory that Germany, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union would in the end join forces to wage war on Japan. (At this meeting the navy minister turned to his colleagues and said: "The foreign minister is crazy, isn't he?")

In 1940 the Americans, as part of their support of Chiang Kai-shek against the Japanese, placed an embargo on aviation fuel, which Japan could obtain from no other source. In September of that year Japanese troops entered Indo-China, as a step towards ensuring the supply of petroleum from the Dutch East Indies. In 1941 the United States announced a total embargo on oil supplies to Japan.

The war in the Far East was out the moral crusade that the Americans claimed it to be. It was not analogous to the struggle against Hitler's Germany. It was a conflict between different imperialisms at a time when the Western imperial powers had decided that their own world-order was sacrosanct.

The chief indictment of the Japanese leaders at the Tokyo trials of 1946 was that they conspired to dominate East Asia. Given that the Western powers then dominated almost the whole of Asia, this was an especially ludicrous accusation.

So I would guess that those Japanese who have a sense of history will be a little puzzled and resentful at our overwhelming self-righteousness. This may make them less receptive to the issue of the POWs. Let us remember the prisoners and the Rape of Nanking, but also the Allied war crimes - Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the fire-bombing of Tokyo in which up to 140,000 people died.

That we remember the past so selectively, that our relations with Japan can be reduced to one emotionally charged issue and that we visit the sins of the father upon the son's blameless head - all these seem to me signs that we are turning into a rather small people.

Alternative baptism - spare me another meaningless ceremony



SARA MAITLAND

MY CHILDREN have names - names we gave to them without their consent; names that directly or indirectly bind them to continuity with their parents' history. Neither of my children, by their own choice, use their given first names socially.

Quite separate from this, both my children were baptised; they went through a *rite de passage*, entirely without their choosing, that was important to their parents. Their godparents were - at least at the time of the christenings - "committed" Christian communicants who could with sincerity take those oaths on behalf of the babies. They believed in the Holy Trinity and salvation through Christ; and they found an honest way of repudiating the power of the "world, the flesh and devil" on the children's behalf.

A quarter of a century later, my children have continuing relationships, or have found a use for, three-quarters of their godparents. These relationships are not more important than the relationships they

have voluntarily formed with other adult friends of their parents - but I suspect they may have been a model for that.

I am pleased (and proud) about the close relationships my children have with individuals who are of my and their father's generation, and whom they know because of our friendship: this is good for all of us. One of the reasons for having "official" godparents is that they affirm positive inter-generational connections. Even if the particular godparents chosen aren't, in the long run, supportive adults, they still signify (even through the crude Christmas-present tenor) the possibility of a good relationship.

It is healthy for children to know that there are other

important adults in their lives than those who happen to be their biological parents - and particularly as the extended family disappears in sociological and geographical fragmentation. So I have intrinsic sympathy with the suggestion, made by Lord Young of Dartington yesterday, that children who don't have the good fortune to have Christian parents should have an official way of acquiring some extra involved and committed adults in their lives.

But hang on. Nothing in Lord Young's proposal for the state to provide a "naming ceremony" which is both secular and significant is about the needs and well-being of children. The proposed ceremony, he tells us, is a "very important occasion for parents and grand-

parents and families generally".

The idea behind god-parents (apart from the religious obligations they traditionally undertook) was to provide children with a counter-balance to their parents. Interestingly, an old word for a godparent was a "gossip" [god sib = god relation (as in sibling)]. A gossip was originally a woman who stayed with a mother through her labour in order to take care of the child, while the mid-wife had a primary responsibility to the mother. A useful division of labour.

Are parents really prepared to see their children as autonomous individuals with rights parallel to their own - as full and free members of society rather than their possessions? If so, then a new rite in which parents would publicly

promise to share the responsibility for, and care of, their children with the wider society would be valuable.

In France, I am told, godparents have a legally recognised advocacy role for the well-being of their godchildren. Appointing "guardians" or "gossips" or "social-parents" or "advocates" - the right name is a problem - here, and giving them real authority in the child's life, would be interesting and important.

But a ceremony on its own, with no legal or faith content, is unlikely to create a new connection between families and society.

Lord Young's proposal is a hopeless attempt to bring the institutions of Christianity to bear in a secular society.

Girl power

UNTIL yesterday, thousands of words were written about Peter Mandelson but the man himself remained worryingly enigmatic. Then four young women students from St Leonards School, St Andrews, were granted an interview with Mandy. Could he have imagined that the result would be the most chilling X-ray of his soul ever committed to paper? Published as part of the *Daily Telegraph's* School Newspaper Awards, future historians will surely treasure this profile of the Minister without Portfolio. At the end of their brilliant article, the students conclude: "We had heard tales of the 'Prince of Darkness'. We had also read that he was a 'lovely man'. Neither description seems entirely accurate." Out of the mouths of babes...

Green envy

DRINKING pink lemonade in the Pharmacy bar on Sunday afternoon, Paul Bartel, the American actor and director of such off-beat film classics as *Eating Raoul* and *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills*, is in London on a brief visit. Having seen *Enemy of the People* at the National Theatre the previous evening, he was full of praise for Sir Ian McKellen's performance. But he was even more fulsome in his acclaim for the backstage facilities on offer. "We went to see Ian after the performance and he took us into the Green Room," Bartel told Pandora. "I've never seen a Green Room like that in the States. It's a real bar." Could this be the secret to attracting more Hollywood investment in British culture?

PANDORA Best nest

Missing!

WHERE is Charlie Sheen? Following a reported drug overdose on Wednesday, the cheeky *bon vivant* star of *Wall Street* was hospitalised in Los Angeles but checked himself out on Friday. He checked back in at 1am on Saturday morning, but walked out the door soon afterwards. He was then stopped by police and, according to them, taken to Cedars-Sinai hospital.

However, a hospital spokesperson told the Associated Press that there was no record of Sheen being on the premises. Pandora's call received the same response. Oh dear!

Nice guy

AFTER four of editor Dominic Lawson's key *Sunday Telegraph* staff resigned in recent weeks, it was perhaps understandable that backs' tongues would wag. Now Pandora has been told

about a meeting between Lawson and Conrad Black, his proprietor, at which Lawson apologised for the many defections. Black then recommended that he be nice to his staff. How silly! Surely there is no UK newspaper editor more patient and loving towards his minions than Lawson. Just ask them.

Political riff

IT IS no secret that, of the three largest political parties in Britain, the Liberal Democrats have the most limited resources. As a result, Lib Dems must try harder to get their message across. Now we learn that David Rendel, Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, is actually taking trumpet lessons. Blowing your own trumpet? Taking life a bit too literally?

THE INDEPENDENT WIN

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Omega watches are, for the second year, official timekeepers of the Goodwood Festival of Speed.

The Goodwood Festival of Speed plays host to a stunning array of the world's most powerful racing cars including the 50th anniversary of Porsche and the 75th anniversary of BMW motorcycles.

At the festival Omega will be launching the Speedmaster Professional X-33 watch (retails at £1,575) and are offering one watch as a prize with 4 family VIP tickets to the festival on Sunday, June 14th. We also have 3 pairs of runners-up tickets to the festival on Sunday, June 14th.

The watch features: Mission Time, Universal Time, Chronograph, Countdown, Date, Turning Bezel, Luminous Hands, Titanium Bracelet and Exclusive Presentation Case.

To enter this competition simply dial the number below, answer the following question on line and leave your name, full address and contact number:

Q: The "Speedmaster" is the one and only watch worn on the moon. In which year did Neil Armstrong make his historic visit?

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Nepotism row hits Thames' expansion

By Peter Thal Larsen
in London
and Richard Lloyd Parry
in Jakarta

THAMES WATER'S hopes of building up a substantial overseas business suffered a huge blow yesterday as it emerged that a lucrative contract to run the water system in Jakarta had been put on hold amid allegations of corruption and nepotism.

A company controlled by Thames was awarded the 25-year contract, which covers the eastern half of Jakarta, in 1995. The western half went to a joint venture controlled by Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French utility. Both groups formally took control of the operations in February.

Yesterday, however, the Jakarta authorities confirmed that they had put contracts covering both the west and the east of the city on hold. City officials claim that both contracts were unfairly awarded to companies with links to former President Suharto, who resigned last week after a 30-year reign.

Thames Water's Indonesian joint venture, in which it has an 80 per cent stake, is with a company chaired by Sigit Hardjodjanto, a son of the

former President. Lyonnaise, meanwhile, has a joint venture with Liem Sioe Liong, a close friend of the former President.

City officials allege that the two companies were awarded the contracts without a proper tendering process after the President intervened on their behalf.

The contract required Thames to gradually extend the supply of water in its half of the city from 2 million to all 5 million inhabitants. Thames had planned to invest \$80m in the contract over a five-year period, although it could not say yesterday how much it had already committed to the project.

Over a 25-year period the revenues would have been substantial. The whole city is currently believed to pay approximately 3000 rupiah (\$2.5m) a month in water rates, which are set by the authorities. The Thames joint venture could have expected to receive about half of that.

A spokeswoman confirmed that the project had been put on hold, but added that Thames hoped it would still be involved in the future. "There is a demand in Jakarta for safe water supplies for the people in the city," she said. "Invest-



A child drinks from an open pipe in Indonesia, where there is huge potential for water companies. Photograph: Reuters

ment is needed, and we believe that Thames Water is well-placed to provide this."

Until now, Thames has avoided the pitfalls that have beset other utilities that have tried to build up overseas operations. United Utilities was recently forced to pull out of a sewerage contract in Bangkok while Anglian Water's venture into South America was also a disaster.

Although Thames was forced to write off \$5m in 1996 on a few overseas ventures that went wrong, the company has subsequently gone from strength to strength. It has won a 15-year, \$800m contract to operate the water supply system in Izmit, Turkey. It also has

similar interests in Australia, Malaysia, Thailand and China.

In the year to March 1997, Thames' international operations reported a profit of £2.7m on turnover of £172m. The division's profitability is expected to rise rapidly in the next few years as the group completes its withdrawal from complex construction and design projects.

Last year, Thames rejected an offer of £400m for its non-regulated businesses from Générale des Eaux, the French conglomerate. It is, however, believed to be considering a plan to demerge the operations into a separate company.

However, recent events in Jakarta may derail these plans. Apart from standing accused of

winning the contract unfairly, quality is also understood to have deteriorated since Thames took over.

Water sales are believed to have gone down since Kati and GDS, the local companies controlled by Thames and Lyonnaise respectively, took over in February, although this may be a delayed effect of the Asian financial crisis. "We have had complaints that the water is dirty and causes skin irritation, and that the process of handling of leakage is too slow," said Rama Boedi, director of PAM Jaya, the city-owned management company.

Last week 2,800 PAM Jaya employees, spurred by the sudden resignation of President

Suharto amid clamorous and nationwide calls for political reform, signed a petition saying that they would no longer work with Kati and GDS. On Saturday, the two companies signed an agreement with PAM Jaya to review the project and the conditions on which it was based.

In a statement issued in Jakarta last night, Kati's managing director, John Hurcom, insisted that the project was continuing and denied that his company had failed to fulfil its obligations. "Kati has acted fully in accordance with the contract between Kati and PAM Jaya," he said. "It is our intention to continue to operate in accordance with the co-operation agreement."

Rates of 5.5% on the way, says Barclays

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

HOMES-BUYERS and businesses could be enjoying interest rates that are two percentage points lower by the end of next year, according to a forecast published today.

While not ruling out one more rise in the cost of borrowing to 7.5 per cent this year, Barclays Bank is predicting that the Bank of England will be cutting interest rates to as low as 5.5 per cent by the end of 1999.

This is much lower than the rate currently expected by the financial markets. At the end of last week prices in the short sterling futures market indicated a market expectation that rates would be around 6.5 per cent in December 1999.

The explanation for Barclays' optimism on loan rates is the bank's pessimism about growth. Chris Wright, its economics director, reckons the economy is in for a hard landing, with growth slowing to below 1.5 per cent next year.

"A key concern is that the economy may be weakening more sharply than generally expected," he said. Export growth had come to a halt and manufacturing output was declining.

Economists - including the members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee - differ widely as to how severe the slowdown is likely to be. Although all agree that growth is slowing, the division

between manufacturing, which is in recession, and services, which are still expanding rapidly, makes forecasting an even darker art than usual.

The latest monthly round-up of forecasts published by the Treasury shows predictions for growth ranging from 1.1 per cent to 3 per cent for this year and next. The average is for a soft landing of just over 2 per cent in 1998 and just under 2 per cent in 1999, with Barclays amongst the gloomiest handful of the 45 covered.

The next meeting of the MPC is on 3-4 June, and any rate move then would come as a surprise. However, recent figures showing a shock rise in average earnings growth have made analysts cautious.

The key statistics due before the meeting are the CBI's monthly survey of industrial trends and the latest trade figures. Both are likely to focus attention on the weakness of manufacturing and the export sector.

The latest published minutes, for the April meeting, showed a 5-3 vote against raising rates, from 4-4 the previous month. The MPC also made no move in May, and the switcher, Professor Charles Goodhart, is presumed not to have swung back.

The ninth and last member of the MPC, Professor John Vickers, will be joining the Bank as its chief economist before the June meeting, changing the voting arithmetic.

Industry predicts explosion in business on the Internet

By Peter Thal Larsen

THE AMOUNT of business done over the Internet is set to quadruple in the coming two years, industry executives believe.

This explosion will bring many businesses and consumers into regular contact with the Internet for the first time, marking the long-awaited arrival of electronic commerce as an accepted way of doing business.

However, the growth of the number of transactions in North America is likely to be twice that in Europe, further extending the lead that US companies have in the field of electronic commerce.

A survey conducted by Deloitte & Touche, the consulting

group, polled more than 1,000 chief information officers in six major industries in 25 countries. Asked about their expectations for electronic commerce, most said they thought it would explode.

The most rapid growth is likely to be in the area of consumer transactions, where people and businesses actually use the web to order goods. Although the number of businesses offering their goods on the Internet has proliferated in recent years - cars, food, music, books, bank accounts and even clothes can now be purchased on the web - the number of people making use of the service has been relatively small.

According to Deloitte, just 13 per cent of all business and

consumer transactions are currently done over the Internet. This is expected to breach the 50 per cent mark in the next two years. Meanwhile the number of businesses using the web for marketing purposes is expected to rise from 44 per cent at the moment to more than 75 per cent.

The survey found that questions of security, which have traditionally prevented companies and consumers from venturing on to the web, were becoming less important.

"Until now, businesses have been hesitant to adopt e-commerce because of security concerns or the perception that their customers aren't using it to buy products and services," said John Reeve, partner at De-

loitte Consulting UK. "Now companies are coming to the realisation that security will always be an issue - but less of a concern than missing out on a vital new channel that could provide a tremendous competitive advantage."

The biggest growth in Internet use is expected in those industries which have been slow to adopt it, such as consumer businesses and the healthcare sector. In consumer industries, the proportion of transactions conducted electronically is expected to rise from 8.4 per cent 43.4 per cent in two years' time. The survey also predicts that the use of the Internet in healthcare is likely to increase more than fivefold to 33.3 per cent.

By Andrew Verity

THE JAPANESE government yesterday moved to talk up the yen after it hit a seven-year low against the dollar.

The yen tumbled to 137 to the dollar after it was reported that Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, was willing to see the currency continue falling in order to stimulate the Japanese economy.

On Monday, a US magazine reported that Mr Rubin was willing to see the yen slide to 140 or even 150 per dollar if that was what it took to stop a collapse of Japan's economy.

Currency markets took Mr Rubin's remarks as a hint the US Treasury was willing to sacrifice US competitiveness to get Japan's economy back on its feet. As European markets closed, the yen stood at 137.05 to the dollar.

However, in the Japanese parliament, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, hinted the yen was now too weak. "It is not a figure that makes me happy," he said. "Everybody has lost too much confidence in the Japanese economy. They have become too sensitive to market fluctuations."

As markets in Europe and the Far East dragged the yen lower, Japan's ministry of finance said it would take "decisive action" to shore up the currency.

Koji Tanami, Vice Finance Minister, said there was



Robert Rubin is reported to want a slide as a stimulus

international support for attempts to stop the yen falling too far. "At the last Group of Seven meeting in London the United States said it shares Japan's concern over excessive yen weakness," he said.

Mr Tanami added: "Japan will continue to cooperate with other nations and take decisive action against excessive weakness in the yen." However, he declined to say whether the yen was now excessively weak.

Mr Rubin passed up an opportunity to deny the report of his alleged remarks. Asked if it was untrue, he stuck to the oft-repeated formula that a strong dollar was in US interests.

Analysts said the Bank of Japan may be ready to intervene. There was a risk that the yen's slide would trigger a fresh round of devaluations of south-east Asian currencies.

Herve Gouletier, chief economist at Credit Lyonnais, said: "A weaker yen will not be good for Asian countries."

IN BRIEF

EU prepares free trade agreement with Mexico

THE EUROPEAN UNION yesterday opened the way for fast-track negotiations on a free trade agreement with Mexico. A spokesman for the British EU presidency said foreign ministers had agreed to begin talks in July. They are aimed at recovering ground lost to the US and Canada, already able to sell goods in Mexico free of punitive taxes and tariffs. The EU and Mexico will try to reach an accord on goods and services, telecoms, transport, capital movements, competition rules and intellectual property.

Russian oil merger off

TWO RUSSIAN oil companies, Sibneft and Yukos, called off a merger that would have created the world's third biggest private sector oil company. The two companies, which jointly produce 21 per cent of Russia's oil, said they had called off discussions because of the weakness of oil prices and the volatility of capital markets. But analysts said they believed talks had failed because of legal and personal difficulties. Mikhail Khodorkovsky, chairman of Sibneft, said: "Unfortunately the merger has required much more effort than we had previously expected it would require." Elf Aquitaine, the French oil company, has a 5 per cent stake in Yukos.

Budweiser grain allowed in

FARM MINISTERS agreed to allow 50,000 tonnes of grain to enter the Europe Union with reduced duty after pressure from US farmers. The deal will benefit the US brewing giant Anheuser-Busch, which says its Stag brewery in west London cannot get supplies from Europe of the high-quality barley it needs to make Budweiser. US growers have also complained of subsidised barley exported from the EU to California.

Glynwed in £100m sale

GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL, the industrial group, sold a large part of its metal services business to a US company for £100m. The Birmingham-based company sold its stainless steel and aluminium distribution arm to Kingston Metals, a subsidiary of the privately owned Henley Management.

The company had built up a leading position in metals distribution in the UK, with 21 depots and warehouses trading as Aalco, Cashmores and Amari. Glynwed, which has 1,250 staff, said it would now focus on its core businesses - pipe systems and food service products.

Employment companies to float on AIM

By Peter Thal Larsen

THE STEADY trickle of companies joining the stock market is set to continue this summer with the news that two employment companies are planning to float on the Alternative Investment Market.

ATA, a fast-growing employment and training group, is looking for a market value of

about £11m while AdVal, a human resources consultancy, is expected to be valued at about £7m.

ATA specialises in recruiting staff in the engineering, sales and advertising industries. It concentrates on vacancies with salaries in the range of £15,000 to £40,000.

In the past three years, ATA's turnover has risen from £2.0m

to £4.7m, while pre-tax profits have almost quadrupled to £883,000. Clive Chapman, chief executive, said the listing would help ATA achieve its objective of becoming a fully-fledged support services company.

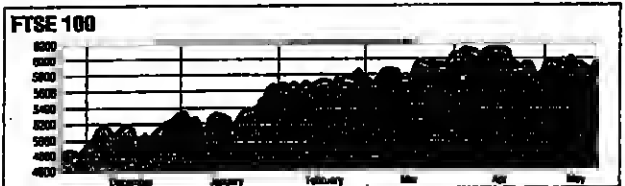
AdVal, based in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, aims to offer a complete "people development service" providing advice for human resources

departments as well as training courses. Its customers include Barclays Bank, Volkswagen UK, Royal Mail and BP.

The company has attracted Sir Jeremy Hanley, the former Foreign Office minister, to be its non-executive chairman. In the year to March 1998, pre-tax profits more than doubled to £690,000 on turnover up 79 per cent to £2.87m.

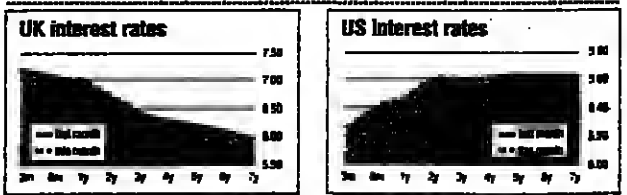
A week in the markets

STOCK MARKETS



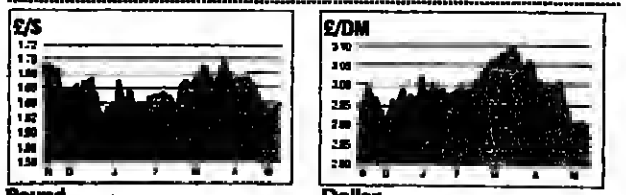
Indices	Close	Wk's chg	Wk's chg%	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield%
FTSE 100	5955.90	37.90	0.64	6190.5	4382.8	3.63
FTSE 250	5897.80	100.00	1.73	5897.7	4394.2	2.89
FTSE 350	2897.40	24.40	0.85	2853.7	2141.8	3.39
FTSE All Share	2833.31	24.88	0.89	2851.12	2106.99	3.38
FTSE SmallCap	2788.40	39.20	1.43	2792.6	2182.1	2.95
FTSE Realind	1593.50	31.20	2.11	1591.1	1225.2	2.90
FTSE AIM	1193.00	24.80	2.24	1128.8	985.9	1.94
FTSE EURO 100	1034.19					
Dow Jones	9114.44	17.19	0.19	9261.91	8871.32	1.56
Nikkei	15801.65	558.79	3.67	20510.79	14488.21	0.96
Hang Seng	9555.98	17.58	0.18	16820.31	7908.13	4.22
Dax	5584.21	171.07	3.17	5512.08	3487.24	1.45

INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates				Bond Yields			
Index	3 month	1 yr	1 year	1 yr	10 yr	1 yr	Long term
UK	7.54	1.04	7.54	0.55	5.62	1.39	5.78
US	5.68	4.12	5.61	4.31	5.64	1.11	5.90
Japan	0.55	0.03	0.58	0.29	1.52	1.26	2.10
Germany	3.62	0.45	3.92	0.57	4.63	0.99	5.50
MAIN PRICE CHANGES							
Rises	Falls	Price (p)	Wk's chg	% chg	Falls	Price (p)	Wk's chg
Gov Insurance	528.50	106.00	25.09		Brit Biotech	55.50	-0.00
Christies Int	388.00	75.50	24.16		London Portlet	381.50	-0.70
Compass Group	1268.00	182.00	16.74		MFI Furniture	79.50	-7.50
FI Group	1567.50	202.50	14.94		Colt Telecom	1912.50	-3.27
Unit	203.50	24.50	13.69		Nyc Amersham	1982.00	-148.00

CURRENCIES



Currency	Wk's chg	% chg	YTD
Pound	1.6319	+0.54%	1.6281
Dollar	2.8708	-3.47%	2.7801
D-Mark	221.80	+22.60	188.66
Yen	102.50	-0.70	98.40
\$ Index	110.20	-0.20	102.10
OTHER INDICATORS			
Index	Wk's chg	% chg	YTD
Brent Oil (\$)	14.37	0.12	19.98
Gold (\$)	299.85	-1.40	342.65
Silver (\$)	5.31	-0.35	4.68
Base Rates	7.25		6.25

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4960	Malta (lira)	0.8155
Austria (schillings)	19.59	Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.61
Belgium (francs)	57.58	Netherlands (guilder)	3.1405
Canada (\$)	2.3048	New Zealand (\$)	2.9179
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8194	Norway (krone)	11.88
Denmark (krone)	10.69	Portugal (escudos)	283.54
Finland (markka)	8.5381	Saudi Arabia (riyal)	5.8403
France (francs)	9.3488	Singapore (\$)	2.5279
Germany (mark)	2.7966	Spain (pesetas)	236.44
Greece (drachma)	479.04	South Africa (rand)	7.9758
Hong Kong (\$)	12.25	Sweden (krone)	12.22
Ireland (pounds)	1.1021	Switzerland (francs)	2.3341
India (rupees)	60.88	Thailand (baht)	57.65
Israel (shekels)	5.5190	Turkey (lira)	399.488
Italy (lira)	2758	USA (\$)	1.5825
Japan (yen)	217.49		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8673		

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

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**GAVYN DAVIES
ON ASSET PRICE
INFLATION
AND WHY
THE FED
IS STARTING
TO WORRY**

Should the central banks kill the bull markets?

NOW that central bankers have been granted omniscient status in many parts of the world, they are of course expected by the public to do the impossible. Cutting through the impenetrable mist which sadly still surrounds these institutions, central bankers can essentially do one thing, and one thing only - they can either raise or lower the short-term rate of interest. Changing the short rate may or may not have the desired effect on long bond yields, equity prices and property prices in the rest of the economy. It may or may not impact on private spending, unemployment and inflation in the anticipated manner. It may result in the exchange rate either rising or falling. At best, with only one policy instrument at their disposal, central banks can achieve only one of these objectives at any given time and, if they attempt to aim their single instrument at more than one objective, they are quite likely to run into severe trouble.

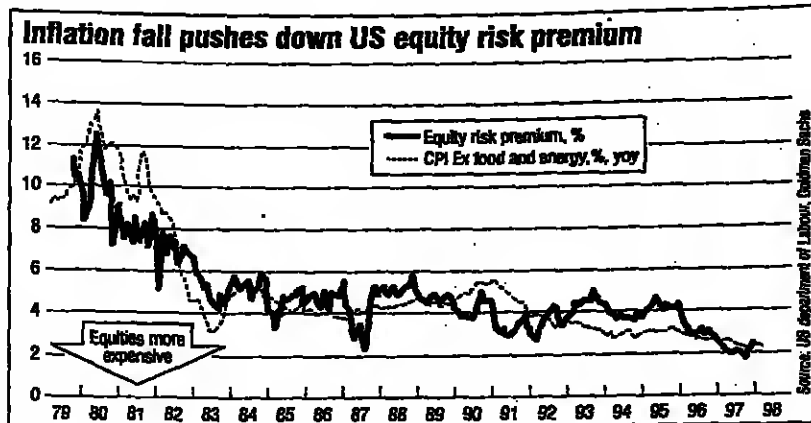
We have seen a recent instance of this in the UK, where the Bank of England has been asked simultaneously to protect the manufacturing sector by holding down the exchange rate, while also acting to dampen inflation pressures in the service sector. It would be serendipitous if both of these objectives could be accomplished simply by varying the short-term interest rate - and so far this has not proven to be the case. (It would be far better, incidentally, if the Bank would spell this out in no uncertain terms to the public, so that it is not henceforth expected to perform the impossible.)

A similar phenomenon is beginning to worry the new European Central Bank. If the ECB manages to achieve price stability for the entire euro area, some countries will probably experience high inflation, while others suffer outright de-

flation. Obviously, help will be needed from national fiscal policy in order to iron out these discrepancies, and once again the ECB should make this crystal clear to the public before the inevitable disappointment sets in.

A third comparable area concerns US share prices, which have increased almost two-and-a-half fold in the past three years. Many observers convinced themselves years ago that they have been observing symptoms of what Alan Greenspan calls "irrational exuberance". Among many others, *The Economist* has urged the Federal Reserve to tighten US monetary policy simply in order to control this surge in asset prices, even though consumer price inflation is very docile at below 2 per cent per annum. This of course immediately raises the issue of whether a central bank ought to be concerned with the stability of asset prices (shares, property etc) as well as that of the prices of goods and services, which are the only prices which show up in official inflation indices.

Most ordinary voters would, no doubt, be surprised at the suggestion that the central bank should assume such a responsibility. After all, most people seem to regard rising equity and house prices as a good thing, even though many of them will be net buyers of such assets in the future, and are therefore outright losers when prices go up today. More generally, while a rapid increase in consumer prices should almost always be considered a "bad thing", this is not true of asset prices, which might increase for sound fundamental reasons such as a permanent decline in interest rates or an increase in the rate of return on capital. Both have quite obviously happened in the US during the 1990s. It is not clear why the public interest



should be served by seeking to control such phenomena.

For these and other reasons, central banks have never been persuaded that they should take action solely to prevent increases in asset prices. Certainly, in a case where rising asset prices are seen as a leading indicator of future increases in consumer price inflation - perhaps working through higher consumer spending in response to an improvement in household wealth - then it is obvious that central bank action is required. But it is much trickier to decide whether asset price inflation, in and of itself, should be a cause for central bank action, when consumer price inflation seems set to remain low and stable.

The reason that this even arises as an issue is that some of the most disruptive bouts of inflation in the past decade, with the most severe consequences for output and employment, have come in asset prices, not consumer prices. Obvious examples are Japan in the late 1980s, Britain

and Scandinavia in the early 1990s, and the Asian tigers in the past 12 months. In each case, an asset price bubble has been encouraged by lax liquidity conditions, only for this bubble suddenly to burst, taking the banking sector and the entire economy down with it. Those who are worried about the current "over-valuation" of Wall Street believe that the same may be happening in America today.

It is probable that, if the Federal Reserve could be persuaded that a liquidity-driven asset price bubble were indeed developing in the US today, then there would be a presumption in favour of raising interest rates immediately, even though consumer price pressures are conspicuous by their absence. In fact, Alan Greenspan himself argued in his "irrational exuberance" speech in December 1996 that "evaluating shifts in balance sheets generally, and in asset prices particularly, must be an integral part of the development of monetary policy". According to Greenspan, the Federal Reserve

accepts a responsibility to iron out asset price bubbles that "might impair the real economy".

But the problem here is deciding when a bubble really is a bubble. Typically, in any period of rapidly rising share prices, there are series of new factors which can be adduced to explain the bull market. Sometimes it turns out that these factors are fundamentally well based, in which case the bull market proves sustainable. Other times, they turn out to be figments of market "hype", and the bubble bursts, usually in a very painful manner. The difficult part is spotting the difference between these two situations while there is still time to take action. At present, it is far from clear that the US stock market is experiencing a bubble. As the accompanying graph (from Bill Dudley of Goldman Sachs) demonstrates, the rise in equities relative to bonds, or the decline in the equity risk premium, has happened primarily because equities are genuinely less risky in a low inflation environment. No sign of an equity bubble here.

Other valuation techniques give a more worrying answer, and there is no doubt that a series of recent speeches that the Federal Reserve is becoming concerned that US equities are in overvalued territory. But it is another matter to be certain enough that this is the case to raise interest rates when there is no other cause to tighten policy. The Fed's view appears to be that, in the transparent capital markets of the US, and with the banking sector looking robust and healthy, asset price inflation should only be a concern of the central bank if it expected to trigger consumer price inflation down the road. So far, they have not quite reached that conclusion, so interest rates are still on hold.

Cost of biggest frauds rises

By Roger Trapp

THE UK suffered 55 cases of fraud worth more than £100,000 last year, according to figures published yesterday by forensic accountants at KPMG. The number of cases represents a significant drop on the 74 recorded in 1996, but the total value of the frauds is up 27 per cent, from £95m to £120m.

The accounting firm has recorded 616 cases of fraud of more than £150,000 - costing a total of £3,638bn - over the past decade. The peak was in 1995, when £1.2bn was defrauded, it says.

The banking and financial sector was the most significant victim, suffering 18 individual frauds of more than £100,000 with fraud against investors soaring from 1996's £4m to £73m last

year. The increase was mainly due to a small number of cases where false promises were made to investors concerning the high profits that could be made from complex instruments that were little understood. In 1996, the chief victim of fraud was the Government.

The findings come days after a report from another leading accountancy firm indicated that, while fraud is often not discovered until a downturn in the economy, it is often perpetrated at times like the present, when business is booming.

Adam Bates, fraud investigation partner at KPMG's forensic accounting arm, said that, although the current cost of fraud in the UK was still lower than it was in the early 1990s, it was still "a very considerable amount".

He added: "Frauds result largely from poor internal controls. Organisations and companies must be reminded that they have to keep a strict eye on these controls, and not be lulled into a false sense of security."

He also warned companies to assess fraud risk on an international basis since the opening of world markets was creating significant opportunities for fraudster as well as for business. "An increasing amount of our work includes international assignments," he said.

The importance of this aspect of work was demonstrated when the KPMG accounts published earlier this year showed a 47 per cent increase in forensic accounting work in the final three months of 1997, compared with the same period the previous year.

Electricals 'cannot cut prices'

By Andrew Vericy

GOVERNMENT attempts to ban price-fixing in electrical goods will fail to cut prices because retailers' profit margins are already wafer-thin, the country's leading authority on retailing said yesterday.

A report on the sector by Verdict, the retail consultancy, shows the majority of electrical retailers are taking profit margins of less than 5 per cent. Some margins were as narrow as 0.1 per cent, leaving no scope for price cuts.

The Department of Trade and Industry last week said it would ban the use of recommended retail prices on television, hi-fi, computers and other electrical goods from 1 September. The move fol-

Ministers' RRP ban misguided says report

lowed a recommendation last July from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which found prices were uniform across the country.

"Verdict does not understand why the highly competitive electricals market has been singled out for this DDI sledgehammer," the authors said. "There are other areas of consumer spending - such as cars - which seem far more deserving of such regulation."

Some industry observers have predicted the move will lead to the price of electrical goods being cut by up to 20 per cent. But Clive Vaughan, one of the authors of the report,

said: "If retailers are operating a cartel then it is a singularly ineffective one. In a monopoly or cartel situation you would expect lots of feather-bedded companies making great profits. [But] the electricals sector is very competitive."

Only Dixons Stores Group, which commands more than 20 per cent of the market, makes a margin higher than 7 per cent. Argos has a profit margin of 6.6 per cent while stores such as

Tempo make only 3.7 per cent. Retailers would only slash their prices if they sold enough goods - when few were in a position to do so. "Will people buy more fridges if the price is cut?

Verdict thinks not. A discount format can only work if it has very low operating costs and huge sales volumes."

The consultancy said the MMC had found uniform prices because of competition rather than a cartel. The strength of competition was shown by the number of retailers that had disappeared over the past five years, it said.

Since 1993, there has been rapid consolidation in the electrical retail sector. Casualties have included Powerstore, Colovision and Clydesdale.

Dixons Stores Group, which owns Curry's and PC World, has grown its share of the mar-

ket from 15 to 20 per cent. Comet, the second largest retailer, has 6 per cent.

Customers are flocking away from the high street to out-of-town electrical superstores, which now make up 35 per cent of the market.

Retailers such as Tempo, Scottish Power and Powerhouse were beginning to challenge the leaders, opening at least 10 new stores a year, the report said.

Sales in 1997 were buoyed by a jump in spending as customers spent windfalls from building society flotations. Spending rose by 9 per cent in £15.6bn while volumes jumped by 13 per cent. However, sales since January have flattened down as the economy slowed.

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A mega-market for Euroland could be the next step

THE WEEK AHEAD



DEREK PAIN

THE PROSPECT of a huge European stock market, presumably based in Frankfurt, is fascinating some investment strategists.

By 2005 they see the mish-mash of insignificant Continental markets merged into one. Mark Howdle at Salomon Smith Barney says: "The only market to measure it against will be the US market."

The Salomon man is, of course, assuming economic and monetary union is a success and the euro is alive and well half way through the first decade of the new millennium.

It is possible the UK will be dragged into Euroland by 2005. But Mr Howdle has, probably wisely, assumed the UK is still going it alone and has not included the London stock market in his calculations.

He sees the euro equity market more than doubling in value, merely because of the changes one market, one currency will introduce.

The present fragmentation of

European equities "is not doing investors any favours" but the one-market payoff "will be greater transaction costs and greater liquidity—a quantum leap in market efficiency", he says.

The new Eurozone equity market will become increasingly like the US market.

Mr Howdle says: "It sounds like a dream environment for fund managers and investment banks."

The perceived European challenge is one of the reasons put forward by the Stock Exchange for its controversial order-driven trading system.

London could, of course, find life increasingly tough if the eventual European exchange takes the form Mr Howdle anticipates. But there is no reason, while the UK is outside Emu, to suspect it could not continue to flourish. And even following Emu entry it need not be submerged into a monster exchange. London is still streets ahead of Continental exchanges, although the way the London In-

ternational Financial Futures & Options Exchange has been made to look leaden-footed by its Frankfurt rival should be regarded as a dire warning that complacency is not the way to treat the euro challenge.

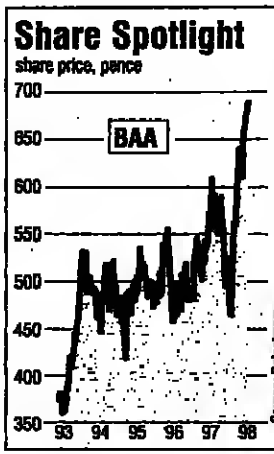
It is, however, strange that as strategists ponder the possible arrival of a master euro share market there is an undoubted tendency for small markets to appear. Easdaq and Euro NM have arrived; even little Guernsey is expected to launch its own stock market in September.

The European share industry is also a target for Nasdaq, the successful US operation, which has indicated its expansion plans by spending a fortune on television campaigns on this side of the Atlantic.

It is impossible to forecast just how the World Wide Web and the rest of the communications revolution will influence share trading in the next century. If, as is possible, investors, big and small, will be able to ob-

tain direct access into something resembling an order book system then there would presumably be no need for market makers, or even stockbrokers.

But somehow such a revolutionary development seems little more than a pipe-dream, like the 1950s forecast that by now we should all be travelling around in our own miniature helicopters.



What could – and perhaps should – happen is that share markets should become two-tier affairs, with institutional and private investors each operating in their own environments.

After all, the needs of big investors, trading in millions of pounds, and the small player, thinking in terms of a few thousand pounds, are poles apart. Already a yawning gap has opened up.

While many private investors queue on the telephone to get through to their execution-only broker, institutions can call the tune with regard to dealing facilities and costs, because of their trading muscle.

Computerised settlement, nominee accounts and the extra cost being introduced in some quarters for traditional share certificates are other factors which separate the little 'uns from the mighty battalions.

There is surely an argument for the London market,

and the possible market envisaged by Mr Howdle, adopting a formal two-tier structure which at least should prevent small investors getting overwhelmed.

THERE is an aviation look to this week's profits schedule with BAA, the old British Airways Authority, British Airways and Airports reporting.

BAA should check in with year's figures around £470m against £444m last time. British Airways, where its long-threatened and controversial alliance with American Airlines is beginning to look increasingly remote, should manage £420m, down from £642m. The strong pound and last year's strike have done the damage.

Airtours, the holidays group, will dive deeper into the red, say a £28m loss against £12.7m at the interim stage. It traditionally suffers losses, because of the seasonal nature of its business, in its first half year. Profits for the 12 months

should emerge near £140m against £120.3m.

EMI, having escaped from the attentions of the Seagram drinks-to-showbiz group, will display its suffering from the Asian downturn and the strength of sterling. Profits are likely to come out at £310m against £380.5m.

Alders and Thorn retail group keep the retail results flag flying. The department store chain's interim figures will be unexciting, say £16.4m against £16m. Thorn's profits, around £115m against £164.3m, could be overshadowed by takeover developments; the group has said a bidder hovers.

Two of the more traditional regional brewers also contribute to the week's activities. Scotland's largest independent, Bellhaven Brewery, is seen as making a 25 per cent gain to £4.95m and Fuller Smith & Turner, the family-run London Pride group, should roll out £12.5, up from £11.1m.

Stock	Price	Weekly	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index
Asahi Beer	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Cement	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Glass	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Paper	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Steel	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Textile	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Chemical	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Energy	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Transport	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Finance	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100

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Asahi Transport	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Finance	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100

Stock	Price	Weekly	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index
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Asahi Transport	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100
Asahi Finance	27.00	+0.10	3.7	2.1	20.0	100

72	TV Corp	30.00	+0.20	3.4	12.5	100
73	Yamaha	30.00	+0.20	3.4	12.5	100
74	Ube Tire	23.00	0.00	12.2	11.5	100
75	Yokohama	23.00	+0.10	12.2	11.5	100
76	WPP	35.00	+0.20	8.5	24.2	20

Oil Integrated

77	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	21.1	21.8	100
78	Shell	32.00	+0.20	21.1	21.8	100
79	Burmah Group	24.00	+0.10	21.1	21.8	100

Oil Exploration & Production

80	Amoco Corp	30.50	+0.10	16.4	24.4	100
81	Anthrax	30.50	+0.10	16.4	24.4	100
82	Conoco	28.00	+0.10	16.4	24.4	100
83	BP Ref	1.00	0.00	16.4	24.4	100
84	BP Ref	78.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
85	Deep Sea	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
86	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
87	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
88	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
89	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
90	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
91	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
92	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
93	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
94	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
95	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
96	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
97	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
98	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
99	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100
100	Exxon	32.00	+0.20	16.4	24.4	100

Other Financial

101	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
102	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
103	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
104	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
105	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
106	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
107	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
108	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
109	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76
110	Amersham	67.00	+0.10	13.9	35.0	76

selection: DANCING PHANTOM

Irani's new maturity is decisive

Cricket

By Henry Blofeld
at Chelmsford

Lancashire 188-8; Essex 190-7
Essex win by three wickets

IT BEGINS to look as if any day of the week is liable to attract the attention of the Axa League. In the space of eight days the competition has taken on the form of a Sunday, to Worcester on Tuesday and now, on Monday, to Chelmsford where the weather was good, the crowd excellent and the cricket well up to standard for these occasions.

The ball darted about off the seam and the pitch had some pace which accounts for the relatively modest scoring. The match-winning innings of 95 not out was played by Ronnie Irani, a former Lancashire player himself, who came in when Essex were 31 for 3 in the 10th over.

With Paul Grayson, he gave the innings a new base before using his long reach to produce a series of pulverising drives,

most of which went straight down the ground. It was a more responsible innings than many one has seen him play.

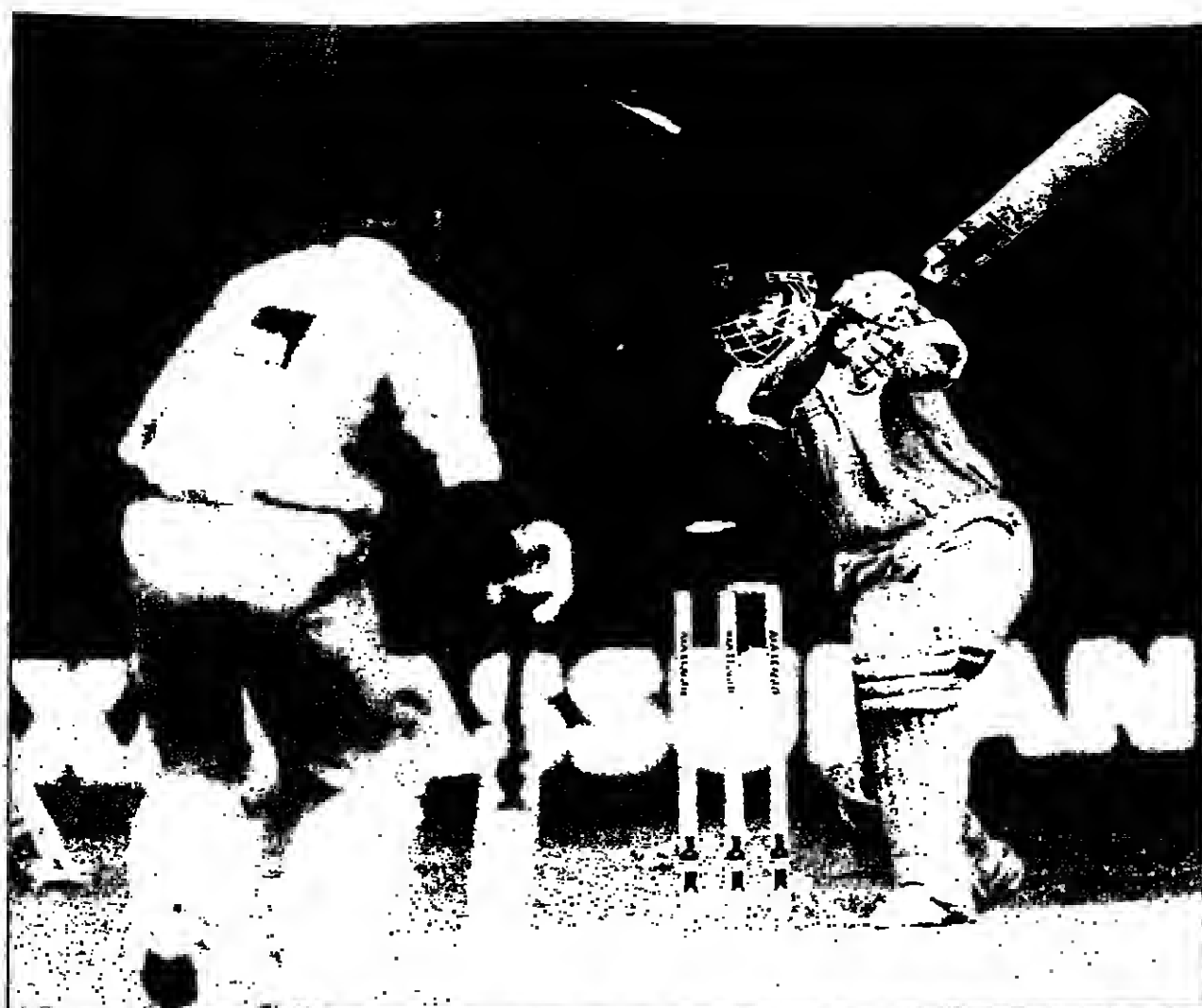
Irani lost Grayson at 82 when he was bowled coming down the pitch to drive. Danny Law then made a useful contribution before slicing a drive to backward point.

Irani who had earlier taken four wickets for the first time in this competition, never lost his head. His 50 came from 58 balls with four fours and he celebrated by straight driving Gary Yates out of the ground for six.

Two more wickets fell while the last 17 runs were scored but Irani was always in control and finished things with a lovely skimming straight drive off Glenn Chapelle.

Earlier, the Lancashire innings had revolved around Mike Atherton, who was at his most composed even if a trifle too slow for a 40-over match. Otherwise, John Crawley and Neil Fairbrother both struck the ball well for a time.

Irani, whose bowling has, ac-



Derbyshire's Kevin Dean clean bowls Keith Greenfield of Sussex at Horsham yesterday

Photograph: Robert Hallam

According to the Essex-minded, greatly improved, showed excellent control and, on this curious Sunday on a Moody day, he looked a more mature cricketer.

England's winter planning has been hit by problems over a proposed A team tour. A trip to South Africa was planned for the autumn but England have been told that the South

Africans are struggling to host the tour. A second option, to go to the West Indies, is also proving difficult to arrange. Bob Bennett, the chairman of the England committee, said

yesterday: "We are still in negotiations, but there may not be an A tour this winter. And, if we can't organise a worthwhile tour, there would be little point in it."

Boardman stays in contention

Cycling

By Martin Ayres
in York

CHRIS BOARDMAN slipped to second overall in the Prutour of Britain yesterday, but his team strengthened its grip on the race with Stuart O'Grady winning the 105-mile leg from Gateshead to York and taking the overall lead's red jersey.

Boardman, winner on the first two days, was in the thick of the action again, finishing seventh and losing just 13 seconds to his team-mate overall.

The, Gan, duo opened a 25sec lead over their closest challenger, Poland's Dariusz Baranowski of the US Postal Service team.

The high point of the day was the one-in-three climb of Rosedale Chimney with 40 miles to go. Hundreds of enthusiasts lined the North York Moors climb as Britain's Britte Voice team fulfilled team orders to be

at the front when reaching the climb. Chris Walker, the 1993 Milk Race winner, obeyed by breaking clear after 17 miles with his team-mate Jon Clay, the German Jens Voigt, Ludovic Auger of France and America's Jonathan Vaughters. By Westdale Moor, at 54 miles, they were more than eight minutes clear.

Boardman and O'Grady spearheaded a strong chasing group that included the Festina team leader, Neil Stephens, and Baranowski. The Walker group's

escape ended at Stillington with only 13 miles to go. But Clay still had enough in his legs to win a special prize of £1,000 at Sutton on the Forest as the leaders neared York.

O'Grady, a former Olympic and world track champion, was easily the fastest sprinter in the group, and won the stage after overcoming some rough-house tactics by Clay, who was second.

Apart from the reshuffle at the top, there was little change in the overall positions. Most of the contenders who missed the decisive break were in a group that closed dramatically on the leaders in the closing miles, finishing 18 seconds down.

Britain's Chris Newton started the day in eighth place overall, and after a good tactical ride moved up to sixth, only 53 seconds down on O'Grady.

Today the 102 survivors tackle a 116-mile leg from Manchester to Blackpool via the Forest of Bowland.

Sailor turns down Wigan

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

WENDELL SAILOR has rejected Wigan after promising to join them and has opted instead to stay with Brisbane Broncos.

The Australian Test winger was due to join Wigan on a two-year contract worth £500,000, provided he could gain a release from an option on his services claimed by Brisbane. Sailor has now dropped the court case against the club through which he was challenging that claim and agreed a two-year extension of his contract with them.

"I allowed myself to be convinced that money was the benchmark of success," said Sailor, who flew to England and was unveiled by Wigan at a press conference in January. "I now understand that integrity is far more important."

Amid the arguments over his future, Sailor signed a Wigan

contract. That was, however, conditional on him gaining his contractual freedom from Brisbane and Wigan will not be taking any legal action to try to enforce it.

Sailor's manager, Barry Collins, said that there were a number of factors behind the player's change of heart. One is that his partner is expecting their baby in August and wants to be close to her parents.

Another is the court costs that he could have faced if he had lost his case against the Broncos, but what has perhaps weighed most heavily is the value he places on playing for Queensland and Australia.

Wigan want a big name imported player for next season, but it is considered imperative they have one to spearhead the move to their new stadium in 2000. The club's coach, John Monie, is keen on the North Sydney and Australia utility player, Greg Florio, while the Australian captain, Laurie Daley, and Sailor's Brisbane team-mate, Gordoo Talia, have been sounded out. The Sydney City half-back and Papua New Guinea captain, Adrian Lam, is another who has been mentioned.

St Helens' world record signing, Paul Sculthorpe, will undergo a hospital check today to diagnose the extent of the sternum injury he sustained in Sunday's 16-10 Super League defeat at Halifax. The 20-year-old Great Britain international was replaced during the first-half of the New Shay loss. The Saints coach, Shaun McRae, feared Sculthorpe had broken his sternum but Sculthorpe is hopeful the injury is not too serious.

Brown forced to call on his reserves

Football

By Phil Shaw
in New York

THE unpleasant after effects of a rogue prawn sandwich continue to plague Scotland's top scorer in the World Cup qualifying campaign, Kevin Gallacher, as Craig Brown ponders his options for Saturday's friendly against the United States in Washington DC.

Gallacher missed Saturday's draw against Colombia at the Giants Stadium after being confined to bed with severe stomach pains which necessitated two injections. Never the hurliest of players, he shed 5lb which, according to the Scotland manager, "he couldn't afford to lose".

The Blackburn striker was at least up and about yesterday as his colleagues took part in a training session delayed by a dramatic thunderstorm. However, with Rangers' Gordon Durie also struggling to shake off a hamstring problem sus-

tained against Colombia, Brown may be forced to go into his last match before France 98 fielding a makeshift attack.

"At least Kevin can't get another injury if he's not playing, but we're very keen to give him a game to get him sharp for Brazil [on 10 June]," Brown said. "He'll only play against the US if he can do himself justice."

On a positive note, Brown has been impressed by the way John Collins' fitness regime from Monaco has been adopted by his team-mates. "They see what's done for John - his upper body's so solid that he never gets brushed off the ball - so now we've got players obsessed by diet and working out. We call them the Gym Club."

Brown and his coaching staff will today study a video of the Americans' 2-0 defeat of Kuwait in Portland, Oregon, on Sunday. While confident that his opposite number, Steve Sampson, will not be able to surprise him tactically, he rates the States as a better side than Colombia.

Colombia's coach 'living in fear'

By Rupert Metcalf

COLOMBIA'S coach, Hernan Dario Gomez, has put into words the fears that weigh on his World Cup squad.

Along with some of his players, Gomez has received death threats - which cannot be ignored in the light of the assassination of the defender Andres Escobar after the 1994 tournament. "I'm far more concerned about the return than about the World Cup," Gomez said.

"We're not having fun," he added. "We're embarrassed. We wanted to feel happy, content because we qualified. But we're worried, tense, anxious and nervous about returning home."

"I keep thinking about what happened after our elimination in USA 94. I'm living in fear," Gomez was an assistant coach with the 1994 side, whose coach, Francisco Maturana, subsequently had to leave Colombia because of death threats.

The Dutch squad, in contrast, have only injuries to worry. The Arsenal pair of Dennis Bergkamp and Marc

Overmars, plus Patrick Kluivert of Milan, missed Sunday's warm-up match against the Swiss side, Lausanne, because of various ailments. That gave an opportunity to two other players from English clubs.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink of Leeds United and Nottingham Forest's Pierre van Hooijdonk scored a goal each in the 4-1 win over Lausanne, against whom Hasselbaink had a particularly good game.

The Dutch coach, Guus Hiddink, may keep Bergkamp on the bench for his team's three remaining warm-up games in order to rest his hamstring injury.

"We are not taking the slightest risk," Hiddink said. "If anything else happens to him during our preparations, then his World Cup is over."

In a friendly in Santiago on Sunday, goals from Ivan Zamorano and Marcelo Salas gave Chile a 2-0 half-time lead over Uruguay, who hit back to claim a 2-2 draw with second-half strikes from Nicolas Olivera and Marcelo Zalayeta.

Cricket scoreboard

AXA League

One day

Essex v Lancashire

Essex won by three wickets.

Essex won last

Lancashire

Essex won last

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Essex won last

Lancashire

Today: stage 3

125 miles/200 km

Essex v Lancashire

Essex won by three wickets.

Essex won last

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Lancashire

1-0 Charlton's Clive Mendonca turns past goal-keeper Craddock on the edge of the box before firing a right-foot drive past Lionel Perez. 23 min	1-1 Nicky Summerbee... 50 min	1-2 ... 58 min	2-2 ... 71 min	2-3 ... 73 min	3-3 ... 85 min	3-4 Michael Gray... 99 min	4-4 ... 103 min
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Ilic grabs Premier prize for Charlton

Football

By Simon Turnbill
at Wembley

Charlton Athletic 4
Sunderland 4
After extra time; 3-3 at 90min;
Charlton win 7-6 on penalties

IT WAS not Gray's day at Wembley yesterday. Gray skies descended on the Wearside half of the old stadium as Michael Gray clutched his head in his hands after two hours and fifty minutes of high drama that Charlton will struggle to match in the entire season of Premier passions that now lies ahead of them.

When Sunderland's left-back stepped up to take the 14th kick of the penalty shoot-out which decided the First Division play-off final, he carried the weight of his home city upon his shoulders. It showed.

His left-foot shot trundled invitingly towards the diving Sasa Ilic. And the Yugoslav goalkeeper duly grasped the winning ticket in what Bob Murray, Sunderland's chairman, had described as "a lottery with a £10m jackpot."

In doing so, Ilic secured a future for himself and for his club in the Premiership. Six months ago he was so uncertain of his place in the scheme of things at The Valley he applied for a job as a fitness instructor at Putney Leisure Centre. It was the ultimate irony in a final overflying with them - and with irresistible attacking football. Gray, whose miss gave Charlton a 7-6 victory on penalties, was one of two Sunderland natives on the pitch. The other, Clive Mendonca, a fellow pupil of Castle View School and one-time star of the Sunderland Schools' team, scored three times against the club he supported as a boy on the Roker Park terraces - most crucially, the equaliser 13 minutes into extra time which took the match to penalties.



Valiant effort: Sasa Ilic, the Charlton goalkeeper, prepares to be mobbed by his team-mates after saving Michael Gray's penalty to send his team into the Premiership

Photograph: Mike Egerton/Empics

"As I came off the pitch, a few Sunderland supporters shouted: 'Don't go back to Sunderland or we'll cut your throat,'" the Charlton striker said later. "To hear that was terrible, but they were just mindless idiots. Every club has them. I'm the biggest Sunderland fan in the world and gutted they won't be going up."

Not quite as gutted, though, as the Sunderland players who came from a goal behind to lead three times. But there was no way back for Peter Reid and his team when Ilic stopped Gray's penalty. It was cruel on the Sunderland manager, his players, not least the distraught Gray,

and on the 40,000 Wearside fans in attendance. Another season of First Division slog lies ahead for them in their premier-class Stadium of Light.

For Charlton, the adventure of Highbury and Old Trafford awaits, and even the heartbroken Wembley losers could not begrudge Alan Curbishley and his underdogs the days they have earned in the sun. The minor miracle Curbishley has worked in south-east London was evident yesterday in a first half that Charlton controlled with supreme composure. In Mark Kinsella and Keith Jones they had the players to expose Sun-

derland's lack of pace in central midfield, and in Mendonca, a £700,000 signing from Grimsby last summer, they had the man to exploit the half-chance that fell to them after 23 minutes.

Mark Bright headed on Keith Jones' right-wing throw and Mendonca wrong-footed Jody Craddock before rifling a low right-foot shot past Lionel Perez. It was the least Charlton deserved for their first-half efforts but the tide turned after the break - emphatically so.

The combative Kevin Ball and the assured Lee Clark assumed control in midfield and, in the 50th minute, Sunderland

were level. Nicky Summerbee drove a right-wing corner low to the near post and Niall Quinn, having slipped free from Eddie Youds, stooped to squeeze a diving header in-between Mark Bowen and the upright.

It was the first goal Ilic had conceded in more than nine and a half games - 860 minutes, to be precise - and the second followed quickly. Ball won a 30-70 challenge outside the Charlton area and in doing so fed the ball through for Kevin Phillips to beat Ilic with a hooked shot.

It was Phillips' 35th goal of the season, breaking the post-war club record he held with one Bri-

an Clough. Charlton were very nearly broken, too, as Sunderland swept into attacking overdrive but Quinn ballooned a chance and sent a header looping inches over.

Instead, after 71 minutes, Mendonca conjured a second goal to draw his team level. Controlling a long ball from Keith Jones, he again eluded Craddock and then hurried a low shot past the despairing Perez.

Two minutes later, Clark crossed from wide on the right, Quinn chested down, and the Irishman fired a left-foot shot in-between Ilic and his right-hand post. It took the season's joint tally between Quinn and Phillips

to 52 goals, 10 short of the club record partnership forged by Raich Carter and Bobby Gurney in Sunderland's last championship season, 1935-36.

With five minutes of regulation time remaining, the record books were out again. John Robinson hoisted a right-wing corner and Richard Rufus rose to head his first goal in five years as a Charlton player.

In extra time, the plot continued to twist. With 99 minutes on the clock, Sunderland had the Premiership prize within their grasp again, Summerbee threading a low right-foot shot beyond Ilic and into the Charlton net.

The celebrating folk from the North-east, however, had reckoned without one of their own. Four minutes later Craddock was beaten on the right by Steve Brown and the substitute's cross found Mendonca, who turned and claimed his hat-trick.

Worse was to follow for Sunderland. After 13 conversions from the spot came the unlucky penalty for Gray and for Wearside. It was a harsh way to separate two truly valiant teams. Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): Sasa Ilic (Pickson), Jones, Youds, Stewart, Newton, Gosselin, Jones, Murray, (S Jones, 84); Mendonca, Bright, Brown, Ilic. Sunderland (4-4-2): Perez, Holloway, Craddock, Williams, Gray, Johnson, Clark (Pace, 100), Ball, Summerbee, Quinn, Phillips (Pickett, 76). Referee: E. W. Walsby (Blackburn).

Hoddle's hope for strugglers

By Martin Lipton
in La Manga, Spain

GLENN HODDLE had words of encouragement for three experienced internationals who are hoping to recuperate after injury in time to be included in England's World Cup squad.

As he headed to England's pre-finals training camp here, the England coach intimated that if Ian Wright, Paul Gascoigne and Darren Anderton proved their fitness they would be in the 22 for France 98.

"I want my quality players, and Gazza's quality," Hoddle said yesterday. "But he's going to have to be fit, and it's the same with Darren and Wright, they're going to have to be 100 per cent fit. The good thing is that Paul's not carrying an injury any longer, nor is Wright or Darren, their problems are over."

Wright and Anderton have overcome hamstring and groin injuries, while Gascoigne is coming back from ankle and knee injuries. The only two of Hoddle's party who do have

slight injuries are Graeme Le Saux (calf) and Paul Ince (ankle). Anderton started Saturday's match against Saudi Arabia at Wembley, his first England game since Euro 96, while Wright and Gascoigne, who both came on after an hour, had not played since the night in Rome when England secured a place in the finals. All enhanced their prospects.

Hoddle said: "I was pleased with Wright on Saturday because he looked sharp. He's been injured but it might turn out to be a slight blessing in disguise.

He's 34 now, and if he'd had a long hard season at that age he might've been a bit jaded."

Hoddle also had positive news of Gascoigne. Last week, he said the midfielder was only 40 per cent match fit. "He's more than 60 per cent fit now," he said. "He came on last week and pushed it on a bit and here in La Manga, and Morocco as well, we've got an ideal climate for working. I don't know how much I can expect of him by 15 June, but he's fitter than he was when he arrived with us."

Bolton set to land Hughes

By Alan Nixon

MARK HUGHES is ready to leave Chelsea this week - with the Bolton manager, Colin Todd, poised to snap up the Welsh veteran.

Hughes has decided the time is right to quit Stamford Bridge and Todd plans to talk him into a transfer to Wanderers, ending a two-year chase for his signature. The former Manchester United striker, 34, believes he still has a couple of good years left in him.

Although Hughes, who owns two houses in Cheshire, has a year left on his Chelsea contract, Bolton are hoping that a fee will not be required, helping them to find the money to offer him a decent contract.

The Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, is keen to sign Argentina's new midfield discovery, Juan Riquelme. Ferguson's brother, Martin, United's new European scout, sent back glowing reviews about the 19-year-old playmaker, who excelled at the Toulon Under-

21 tournament, which was wooed by his country. Now the Old Trafford club will approach Riquelme's club, Boca Juniors, about a transfer fee - but they may face competition from the Italian side, Internazionale.

The Newcastle manager, Kenny Dalglish, has also been scouting overseas: he has his eyes on Denmark's Under-21 defender, Martin Laursen. Dalglish and his assistant, Terry McDermott, watched the 20-year-old Laursen play for Silkeborg in Sunday's Danish

Super League match against Aarhus. The centre-back would cost around £1.1m. Nearer home, the Magpies are also chasing Sheffield United's Cornish-born England Under-21 left-back, Wayne Quinn.

With a merger apparently imminent between Clydebank and Livingston, three Highland League clubs, Elgin City, Peterhead and Huntly, plus Gala Fairydean from the Borders, are set to apply for the vacancy in the Scottish League that would then arise.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 3620, Tuesday 26 May By Aled
Monday's Solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

ACROSS

- Show embarrassment about one being rather obese? (6)
- You'd be chicken to get out of it! (8)
- Shamefully used Liberal and Conservative, being capricious (9)
- Order a railway to carry gunners (5)
- Brought round composer of scholarly leanings (7)
- Host stores our supply of weapons (7)
- Excel in published work (5)
- Percentages of freaks which can be made good (4-4)
- Rule out instruments of torture in military accommodation (8)
- Thanks set out, that shows sense (5)
- Note aunt's pointed complaint (7)
- Popular king's disgrace in Rorschach test? (3-4)
- A compiler will naturally do this (5)
- Under different circumstances implied one's foolish? (9)
- Sewers heading south will be without point (8)
- Possibly times when limiting power and liveliness (6)

DOWN

- 0 bold hostile feeling? (3,5)
- Favoured's balloon race began with this? (7)
- Part about Poland's finish of glory (9)
- Parody fellow knight's awe about November celebration (3,6,5)
- Period for saint to be meat eater? Quite the reverse (5)
- Listener's mistake which could make one a bit heated? (3,4)
- Save up extras, we hear, where drivers may stop (3-3)
- Cooking cod, so professor could be needing these (4,10)
- Do they hide underwear in the suburbs? (9)
- It may help MP retain position in transport (4,4)
- Expert holds up tense move (7)
- One comes in to join if a new recruit? (7)
- Soldiers coming in one can achieve a level of proficiency (6)
- Name a girl nosey (5)

Britain's leading men make a painful exit

Tennis

By John Roberts
in Paris

BRITAIN'S prospects went horizontal on the clay after only four hours and two minutes of the opening day of the French Open. Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and began to think about the friendlier grass courts of England and the lead-up to Wimbledon a month hence.

In that respect, Henman is a worry. Muscular spasms in his back caused the 23-year-old from Oxford to retire after only 30 minutes of his match on Court No 7 against Sergi Sargsian, of Armenia, who was leading, 5-2, 0-15. Henman won the concluding point after laying face down on the court receiving treatment from the physiotherapist, Bill Norris.

"I'm going to see the doctor," Henman said after explaining that he first felt the pain in his back while practising with the Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Sunday. "Until I know what the problem is it's a little difficult to say what's going to happen," Henman added. "I hope and I think it shouldn't

be too long before I can get back on the court."

Asked if he feared missing Wimbledon, Henman said, "Not really. Obviously it is around the corner, but at this moment it's more disappointing to have prepared so much on the clay and for something simple to happen and force me to miss this tournament."

Earlier, the physio had been called to assist Rusedski on Court No 3. The British No 1 stretched out on the clay after the opening game of the third set against Belgium's Johan Van Herck while Norris massaged his back, neck and shoulders. Rusedski, the No 5 seed, emphasised that the problem had no bearing on the nature of his defeat, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. "I just needed an adjustment," he said. "I felt a little tight. There was absolutely nothing wrong with me. A little click, besides that I was a hundred per cent fit."

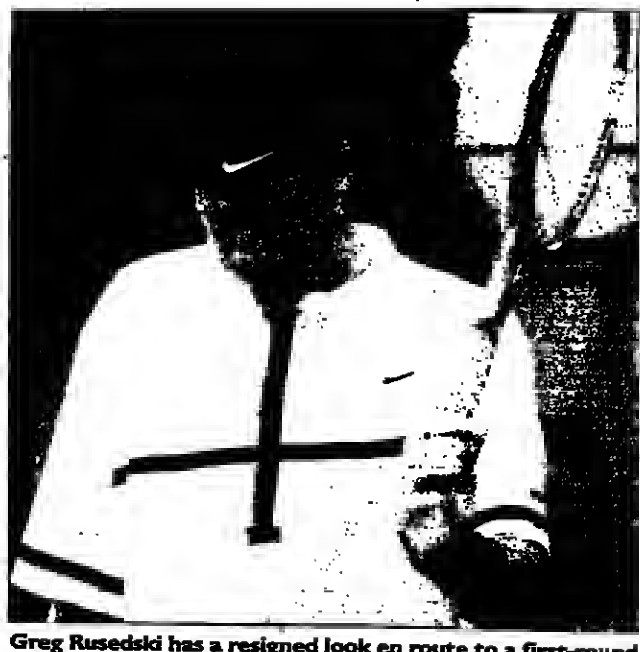
It was a rather strange day for Rusedski. No sooner had the vagaries of the ATP Tour world rankings system promoted him from No 5 to No 4, matching his highest position, than he be-

came the first seed to be eliminated from the year's second Grand Slam championships.

Rusedski's performance encapsulated his clay court season - one win in six matches. "I basically followed the same pattern for the last five weeks - getting up a break then not playing very well for the rest of the match," he said. There were moments during the opening set when Rusedski appeared to have the measure of the 96th-ranked Van Herck, and occasions when he looked if he might struggle to beat Van Morrison.

As Rusedski admitted, uncertainty invaded his game almost as soon as he had broken to lead 4-2. He served his way to 40-15 in the next game, only for his opponent to work his way back and recover the break, hitting a splendid backhand service return down the line. The backhand proved Van Herck's most effective shot, both cross-court and down the line, and he used it to return a second serve to secure the decisive break for 5-4.

The Belgian broke for 5-4 in the second set after Rusedski had saved two break points after



Greg Rusedski has a resigned look en route to a first-round defeat at the French Open yesterday

Photograph: AP

twice double-faulting in the third game. Rusedski fought off seven break points in the opening game of the third set, Van Herck converting an eighth chance.

While Rusedski received treatment from Norris during the change-over, another physio massaged Van Herck's right thigh. The twinge did not deter the Belgian from going for his shots and celebrating the best of them with a little skip.

Other seeds joined Rusedski at the exit. Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman (No 7), was defeat-

ed by Thomas Muster. The 1995 champion, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3, and the Slovakian Karol Kucera (No 9), lost to Australia's Todd Woodbridge, 1-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

Rusedski, who will ask for a wild card to defend his Nottingham title the week before Wimbledon, was disappointed but philosophical. "Playing the clay court season is definitely going to be a plus in the long term," he said. "It's the boring old saying, 'it's a learning curve', which you guys print in the newspaper way too often in the clay court season. Maybe you can print we have a winning formula on the clay court season next year."

Results, Digest, page 27

HOT FASHION OVER THE BOHEMIA
FASHION, PAGE 1

Aki

Today's news

Paley calls the Queen 'foolish'

Sexual healing

ALMOST

INSIDE GUIDE: WE